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...and Pin Dinners on 8, 16, 17, 28, 29

PG&E Lineman Shane Kayser works near Montara, CA
Local 1245’s members are facing a series of challenges to their jobs insecurity unlike any we’ve seen since the “glory days” of deregulation in the late 1990s. Some of these threats have been building quietly, and some are exploding onto the scene – but we are taking proactive measures to counteract them all. Our members have asked the Executive Board for help fighting back, and Board members have stepped up to the plate.

Berkshire Hathaway

When Warren Buffet’s Berkshire Hathaway acquired Nevada Energy in 2013 we had our guard up, and had heard from other IBEW locals that they had had a tough time at the bargaining table. To protect our members’ interests we formed a Coordinating Council with six of those locals and asked the Executive Board for support.

In response, the Board allocated up to $5 million to defend our members’ interests. We have spent a small fraction of that amount, partly because Berkshire’s progressive management style at NV Energy has turned out to be an improvement over the leadership team they replaced. Thanks to the Board’s support and the hard work of our staff we have already significantly altered the relationship between Berkshire Hathaway and the IBEW. This month there were unit motions addressing specific challenges faced by our members, and the Executive Board responded without hesitation.

Diablo Canyon

The future of Diablo Canyon is questionable, and closure would cost 600 Local 1245 members their jobs. Attacks from environmentalists, the cost of seismic upgrades, and the economic squeeze created by the priority given to wind and solar have converged to put the plant at risk.

To counteract these threats we designed a campaign that includes litigation, participation in agency proceedings, public relations, and community organizing. The Board allocated up to $2 million to support the plan, and it is already paying off. In conjunction with CUE (the Coalition of California Utility Employees), we successfully blocked a legal petition filed by Friends of the Earth that would have shuttered Diablo Canyon. Thanks to the Board’s support and the support of our members, we won this battle – and will continue fighting the war.

Manteca

The South San Joaquin Irrigation District has won preliminary approval to take over the PG&E electric system in Manteca. If they are successful our members there would be displaced, and a dangerous precedent of successful municipalization would be established. SSD is reporting to Local 1245, and our opposition to the take-over is based on our long-standing policy of opposing changes in ownership.

At my request, the Board allocated up to $1 million to defend the job security of our Manteca members. We’re putting resources to work, and the effort that leaves no stone unturned. We are approaching the task from legal and regulatory angles, and layering in a public relations strategy and on-the-ground organizing push. We have our work cut out for us but feel this is a challenge we can successfully manage.

Mike Jessen, a 23-year IBEW member and Electric Compliance Inspector (Lineman) who works at PG&E, has been unanimously appointed to the IBEW 1245 Executive Board.

Jessen was initiated into Local 1245 in June of 1991. He has represented the DeSabla Division of PG&E on the union’s Advisory Council since 2007, and has served as a shop steward since 2008. He previously served on the PG&E Negotiations Committee (2012), the Emergency Overtime Sub-Committee (March – April 2011), and the PG&E North Valley Division of the Safety Inspection Committee (Winter/Spring 2009 and Summer/Fall 2009). Jessen will replace Mike Scafani on the IBEW 1245 Executive Board, representing the Northern California Area. As a result, the DeSabla Advisory Council seat he held is currently vacant and the Executive Board will be looking to fill it. Individuals who are interested in the position should email a brief resume to IBEW 1245 Recording Secretary Chris Habecker at cah@ibew1245.com.

Jessen Appointed to E-Board

Mike Jessen

Irene Jessen

Utility Reporter

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Our Web Site can be viewed at www.IBEW1245.com. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/IBEWLocal1245. Our phone number is (707) 452-2700.
Unit meeting changes

Recent changes to the unit meeting schedule:

Unit 1110, Fresno Clerical has voted to change their unit meeting location. Starting in March, the unit will meet at Kocky’s Bar & Grill, 1231 Van Ness Ave., Fresno, CA, and will continue to meet there for the duration of 2015.

The unit has also changed the date for its March meeting. The meeting will take place on Monday, March 2nd, at 6:30pm. If this proves to be a more convenient date for members, the unit will consider making the switch for subsequent months as well.

PJ Saenz, Unit Chair & Gracie Clark, Business Rep

Unit 1111, Fresno Physical has voted to change their unit meeting location. Starting on March 3, the unit will meet at the Clovis Elks Lodge #2599 Banquet Hall, 535 Woodworth Ave., Clovis, CA, 93612, and will continue to meet there for the duration of 2015.

Mike Grill, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Unit 1119, Balch Camp has been re-established. The Unit Meetings will be held at Unit Chairman Don Baker’s residence at Balch Camp, CA at 6:00pm on Wednesdays on the following dates for the rest of 2015: April 15th, May 13th, June 10th, July 15th, August 12th, September 16th, October 14th, November 11th, December 16th. For directions, please email mfg6@ibew1245.com.

Mike Grill, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Unit 2317, Antioch has voted to change their unit meeting location. Beginning in March, the unit will meet at Celia’s Restaurant, 523 W. 10th St., Antioch, CA. The meeting date and time will remain the same

Anthony Brown, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Unit 2512, Angels Camp has voted to move their monthly meeting to a different location. The new venue is Round Table Pizza, 27 N. Main St., Angels Camp, CA. The dates and times of the meeting will remain the same.

Lloyd Cargo, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Unit 3511, Auburn has changed their unit meeting location. The new location is Round Table Pizza, 10894 Combie Rd, Auburn, CA. The meeting dates and time will remain the same.

Dave Sankey, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Unit 3012, Orangevale (USBR/CVO) has changed their unit meeting location. The unit will now meet at Round Table Pizza, 9500 Greenback Lane, Orangevale, CA. The dates and time will remain the same.

Sam Glero, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

The complete IBEW 1245 unit schedule for 2014 can be found at ibew1245.com/unit-meetings

Utility Reporter 3

April 1: “Hold the Pull” Safety Summit, Vacaville
April 17: Pin Dinner/Service Awards, Reno
April 18: Family Soccer Tournament and Cook-Off, Ripon
April 19: Bowling Party, Reno
May 1: Shop Steward Conference, Fresno
May 1: Pin Dinner/Service Awards, Fresno
May 2: Advisory Council meeting, Vacaville
May 6: Shop Steward Conference, North Bay
May 9: Family Soccer Tournament and Cook-Off, Fairfield
May 9: Annual Charity Bowl, Sacramento
May 15: Pin Dinner/Service Awards, Merced
May 15-16: Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo, Sacramento
May 16: Cancer Walk, Lompoc
May 30: PG&E Gas Rodeo, Livermore
May 31: 2nd Annual Charity Bowl, Fresno
June 5: Pin Dinner/Service Awards, Monterey/Salinas
July 11: 2nd Annual Softball Tournament, Central Valley
July 25: Advisory Council meeting, Reno

Calling all aspiring artists/designers. We need YOU to create a new IBEW 1245 logo.

Winner will receive a prize of $1,000.

Submission deadline: May 1, 2015.

Contest is open to all IBEW 1245 retired members and members in good standing.

For a full list of requirements, please visit www.ibew1245.com/2015/1/2/ibew-1245-logo-contest/

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www.UnionPlus.org/Moving
By Rebecca Band

It started off as an ordinary work day for the PG&E General Construction line crew out of the North Bay. Little did they know that their CPR training was about to pay off in a big way for one terrified family and their tiny baby. IBEW 1245 members Facundo Ronquillo, Kjol Turner, Art Mayfield, Noah Studebaker and Mark Hockenberger, along with IFPTE-ESC member Kurt Kidwell and their supervisor, Dustin James, were on their way to a job in Fort Bragg when they decided to stop off for a meal break at Mary’s Pizza Shack in Cloverdale. The men were waiting for their order to arrive when they noticed something was going on at nearby table, where a mother and grandmother were seated with their nine-month-old infant.

Miscellaneous Equipment Operator Art Mayfield had been outside on a work-related phone call, but when he stepped back inside the restaurant, he looked over at the family and immediately knew something was wrong. “It struck me that something was amiss when I saw the way the grandma was handling that baby. [The crew and I] all looked at each other and realized the baby wasn’t breathing. Something was lodged in the windpipe.”

Mayfield said it was clear that the mother and grandmother were panicking and didn’t know what to do. “Even the waitress had no clue what was happening,” Mayfield said. “She just stepped back.”

But the GC crew members, who are all trained in CPR and emergency preparedness, knew exactly what to do, and immediately leapt into action.

Kurt Kidwell was the closest and reached the baby first. He took the baby into his arms and held her close to his face to check for air flow, but felt no breath coming from her.

“Kurt was giving the baby a little Heimlich [maneuver], and pretty soon the baby started coughing up what was lodged in there!” Mayfield recalls. “Then I went outside with Mark to direct the Fire Department. The rest of the guys were still inside talking to family, telling them everything would be OK.”

And indeed, thanks to the crew’s quick thinking and emergency preparedness training, the baby was just fine. “By the time the Fire Department arrived, the baby was good, she was actually drinking some milk,” said Mayfield.

“Once the Firemen arrived and started giving advice to the mother, I realized what really just happened and how awesome our team reacted,” reports Supervisor Dustin James. “It was truly amazing.”

“We go to CPR training every year, and we’re always told that we’ll use it more away from work than at work,” said Mayfield. “This is what we do. This is what we’re trained to do. We all reacted at the same time. We each took a different responsibility and did certain things. Kurt did the actual CPR, but we worked together and did everything we’re supposed to do.”

“Words cannot express the pride I have in knowing I work amongst great men such as yourselves,” John Ghigliazza, Sonoma Division Senior Manager, wrote in a thank-you email to the crew members. “I hope to one day be able to shake your hand and thank you in person. You all made the ultimate difference yesterday.”

“The culture of safety that IBEW and PG&E have worked to develop means that every lineman has the ability to save a life, whether it’s the life of a co-worker who is injured on the job, or the life of a child they’ve never met who winds up choking in a restaurant,” said IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. “These heroes reacted effectively and without hesitation. Today we celebrate them and the young life that they helped save. We couldn’t be more proud.”

IBEW 1245 defends Diablo Canyon

As part of IBEW 1245’s ongoing effort to save more than 600 jobs at PG&E’s Diablo Canyon Power Plant, the union, in conjunction with the Coalition of California Utility Employees (CUE), succeeded in blocking a legal petition that had the potential to needlessly close down Diablo Canyon.

The environmental organization Friends of the Earth filed a petition in 2014 to launch a specific type of legal “rule-making” process around Diablo Canyon, with the underlying goal of shutting the power plant. IBEW 1245 and CUE filed two responses with the court, arguing that FOE failed to meet the legal requirements needed for their petition to be successful. Last week, an administrative law judge ruled in our favor, blocking FOE’s preliminary effort for the time being.

“This is just one of many efforts being made by outside groups that want to go after the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, despite the fact that several recent studies have found the plant to be a safe, clean and reliable source of energy,” said IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. “We will continue to work with PG&E and the CUE to fend off these attacks and protect the quality, union jobs and clean power that Diablo Canyon provides every day.”
**Gearing up for bargaining**

The Pre-Bargaining Committee met Feb. 19 at Weakley Hall to prepare for IBEW 1245’s general negotiations with Pacific Gas & Electric. The committee will be officially convened after proposals from members are received during the month of March. In addition to proposals received in March, the committee will examine all proposals received during this same time last year. Those negotiations were put off to this year when members approved a one-year extension of the labor agreements with the company.

After consolidating and analyzing the proposals, the committee will prepare an opening package to be presented to the company in June. PG&E will at the same time present its opening package. Bargaining will then begin in earnest shortly after Labor Day.

**2015 PG&E Bargaining Committee**

**PHYSICAL**
- Jeff Price, System Operator, Edenvale SC
- Steve Pettigrew, Roving Operator - Hydro, Wise Powerhouse
- Dan Witte, Lineman, Angels Camp
- Al White, Troubleman, Concord SC
- Chad Lavezzo, Sub-Foreman A - GC Line, DAVIS GC
- Thorn-Fresno GC (3 months Start Feb)
- Jim Brager, Sub-Station Electrician, DCPP
- Teresa Alvarez - Sanchez, Materials Leadperson, Fremont Warehouse
- Gary Maschio, Building Technician, SF GO
- Robert Mohler, Gas Service Rep, Fresno SC
- Steve Lange, Back-Hoe Operator - GC Gas, Chico GC

**CLERICAL**
- Kevin Krummes, Operating Clerk, West Sac RMC
- Keri Hughes, UMO, West Sac BPM
- Donna Ambeau, SSR, Oakland Local Office
- Eddie Moreno, CSR, Fresno Call Center
- Bill Hunt, Operating Clerk, Santa Rosa

**BENEFITS**
- Amber Cordeiro, Service Rep/Records, Stockton Records Center
- Mark Newman, Telecom Crew Lead, Salinas SC
- Dan Mayo, Troubleman, Merced SC
- Marcus Luna, Lineman, Placerville SC
- David Kelly, Dist Gas System Operator, San Ramon Bishop Ranch
- Rene Perez, Senior Gas Compliance Rep, Antioch
- Jeff Roby, Operator, DCPP

**Dispatchers choose 1245**

System Dispatchers and Senior System Dispatchers who work at PG&E facilities in San Francisco and Vacaville have voted to join IBEW 1245. The election was certified by the National Labor Relations Board on Feb. 10.

The dispatchers first met to discuss the possibility of joining IBEW in July of 2014, and began actively organizing in October. After just four months, the dispatchers held their election and the majority of those voting chose the union. The final vote tally was a razor-thin 6-5, proving once again that every vote counts.

The union will be working to incorporate the 14 newly represented employees into the existing PG&E agreement, and union staff will be teaming up with the dispatchers to collectively bargain for lines of progression, job duties, wages and more. IBEW already represents dispatchers at a number of other employers in the region. Local 1245 represents this classification at SMUD, and Local 111 represents dispatchers at the Western Energy Coordinating Council.

**PG&E Safety Kick-Off in Los Padres**

The entire Los Padres Division of PG&E M&C gathered at the San Luis Obispo Elks Club last week for the annual Safety Kick-Off. PG&E holds dozens of similar events for all divisions across its jurisdiction every year to underscore the company’s commitment to safety on the job.
Making the Connections

IBEW 1245 members, making the connections

Photos by John Storey

6 April – June 2015
Balfour Beatty Rail are the people making the connections as Sacramento Regional Transit adds a new four-and-a-half mile extension to its light rail system through Elk Grove.

When the Utility Reporter visited a couple months back, an Outside Construction crew headed by Foreman Jason Massey was stringing messenger wire between newly-installed structures. Messenger wire supports the contact wire, which carries the juice. That device you see on top of light rail vehicles is the pantograph, which grabs electricity from the contact wire and uses it to get you to your next stop.

Next, the crew will pull in the signal cable and lash it to the messenger wire. You’re going to be happy they get that job done right because the signal cable controls the lights and crossing arms that keep you from driving your car in front of a train.

Balfour Beatty crews also installed four substations along the route to keep the power running through the contact wire. The job was going smoothly at the time of our visit, with no reported accidents or incidents. “Things are looking pretty good for the home team,” said Massey. “That’s the way I like it.”

Working with Massey the day the Utility Reporter and Business Rep. Richard Ingle visited the site were Journeyman Lineman Rex Evans, 3rd Step Apprentice Lineman Keane Davis, and Groundman Roman Rose.
As of February 28, we have conducted 3,000 “Code of Excellence” orientations to members as they sign or are referred to jobsites. The goal of these trainings is to expand safety awareness in our jurisdiction.

CALTRAIN PROJECT

The CalTrain project is a small portion of California’s large-scale high-speed rail project which will benefit from for years to come. The first phase of the project is to electrify a 54-mile stretch of the CalTrain line from San Francisco to San Jose and extend the current train service through the peninsula. The RFP should be out soon and work is underway to secure a project letter agreement for this portion of the project that will provide work for our members through at least 2020. However, many of the design details are still unclear. The actual number of structures and substations haven’t been finalized, nor has the work schedule (a lot of this work will require a schedule outside of the norm to accommodate the operational needs of the current train schedule). More to come.

JATC

Apprentice interviews were conducted on Feb. 25 and 26, at which time 160 candidates were interviewed. Additional interviews are scheduled for April 1 and 2 of this year. All of the applicants being interviewed are from last year’s open application period, which was open for only 10 days last September. The sheer number of applications that were received during the 10-day opening period shows that times have changed with a marked increase in the number of people interested in becoming linemen. Of the 160 candidates that were interviewed this past month, about 95% of them had attended a line school and several of them have been working in the industry somewhere. Competition is steep for these apprentice positions.

We currently have 336 outside line apprentices registered in our JATC program. We have 3 traveling apprentices in our jurisdiction as well.

• 59 apprentices are working out of Local 1245
• 245 are working out of Local 47
• 5 are working out of Local 396

10 Years
Scott H., John Woodson, Gary Prine, Patrick Stockman Jr., Kenneth Weeding, Rodney 30 Years
Bevering, Rebecca Falge, Sherry Farris, Jamie Hall, Douglas Mifarling, Robert Sambrailo, David Santo, Timothy 20 Years
Brown, Thomas Doeding, Mary Sliver, Stacy 15 Years
Allen, Hershel Dickson, Joshua Fifeid, Heath Graham, Wesley Green, Donald Hoberg, Devon Ingham, Jason Myers, Bradley Rege, Robert Sutton, Jason Trujillo, Martin 5 Years
Arnold, Kyle Arreguin, Joel Flores, Rafael Holbrook, E. Homer Hoyle, Christopher Johnson, Jared Leach, Rodney Levy, Ronald Lucern, Ralph Lukas, Travis Mallforn, Miguel Muhled, Rick Pellegrado, Ricardo Roaides, Cory Ryker, Robert Soria, Alberto Sumpter, Shawn Tullos, James Watson, Joseph Woodall, Tyler

13 are unemployed (30 are technically unemployed, but 17 can’t work)
13 apprentices have graduated to journeymen lineman
Zero outside line apprentices have been indentured in 2015
The JATC is offering a crane certifying course and written test. Anyone interested can find out more information about the class on their website under Trade classes.

ORGANIZING

In the month of February we signed the following contractors:
CA Outside Line Construction Agreement
• Tau Delta Industries, Inc
• High Country Line Construction, Inc
Line Clearance Tree Trimming Agreement
• Pacific Coast Tree Experts

INJURED WORKERS FUND

As of Jan. 30, the balance of the fund was $762,109.51. No disability or death benefit claims were paid out in the months of January or February.

2015 TRAINING SCHEDULE & SPECIAL EVENTS

• First Aid & CPR is the 2nd Saturday of every month at JATC Riverside and Sacramento facility.
• Soccer Tournament (south) April 18 – Ripon, CA
• Soccer Tournament (north) May 9 – Fairfield, CA

SERVICE AWARDS

Ukiah February 21, 2015

Congratulations on your service!

See Outside Photos, pages 6-7

Outside Construction

WORK OUTLOOK

Work remains steady for this time of the year with not much change from last month. January’s numbers for PG&E show that there are currently 70 crews working on distribution projects; 46 are on electric projects and 24 are performing civil work. Transmission has several projects slated to go to bid. Substation projects and security upgrades are being performed, which is typical at this time of year due to outage availability.

Work in Nevada has been fairly good as of late, with contractors including Summit Line, Wasatch, Titan, Black and McDonald and Christianson all performing projects of various sizes and duration there.

Since the Feb. 2, Outside Line Rep Richard Ingle has logged over 5,000 miles visiting 52 job sites. While performing crew visits in Nevada, Richard picked up outdated fall protection and FR Clothing to be donated to Brady Hansen’s “Recycling for Lineman” project, where they will be sent to lineners in Suriname and other countries. These items are no longer allowed in the states due to regulatory requirements, but they would represent a significant upgrade for lineners working in developing countries. (See page 10)

We have settled some issues of members not paying dues. We found a contractor that was working in our jurisdiction with a crew that was dispatched through Local 47 without notifying us, though we are not sure if this was an error of commission or omission on the part of the contractor.

CODE OF EXCELLENCE TRAINING

As of Feb. 28, we have conducted 3,000 “Code of Excellence” orientations to members as they sign or are referred to jobsites. The goal of these trainings is to expand safety awareness in our jurisdiction.

See Outside Photos, pages 6-7

Flavian, Martin Myatt, Bradley Fifield, Heath Green, Donald Hoberg, Devon Ingham, Jason Myers, Bradley Rege, Robert Sutton, Jason Trujillo, Martin 15 Years
From left: Jason Sutton with (Hollesen). Photos by John Storey

28th

April – June 2015

Out of Work Books

As of February 27, 2015

BOOK #

L-1 35 CS-1 12 F-1 4
1-2 57 CS-2 8 F-2 0
1-3 0 CS-3 3 F-3 18
1-4 19 GM-1 24 Sub-1 0
ES-1 6 GM-2 25 Sub-2 1
ES-2 13 GM-3 166 Sub-3 55
ES-3 12 GM-4 289 Sub-4 0

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www.IbEW.org
If These Walls Could Talk

By Rebecca Band

Eduardo Pineda believes that every wall has the potential to tell a story.

Pineda has been part of the US Community Mural Movement for nearly 40 years and has worked on more than 70 murals over the course of his career. His works of art can be seen all over the Bay Area, from the streets of San Francisco’s Mission District to the walls of some of the area’s finest art museums.

Now, Pineda’s creative vision and artistic prowess will shine from the walls of IBEW 1245’s Weakley Hall. He’s the man behind a new mural that will be unveiled this spring.

A Celebration of Work

While many artists tend to focus on famous or infamous people and events, Pineda draws much of his artistic inspiration from “regular people.”

“I feel like we could all use some more creativity in our everyday lives,” Pineda said, “and I like that murals can help us celebrate those everyday moments that make our lives meaningful.”

That’s the basis of his inspiration for the IBEW 1245 mural. According to Pineda, it’s “a celebration of work and the union itself. It includes everything from linemen to customer service reps; all the different trades [of Local 1245] are represented. And it has a section that looks at the future of the union and the energy sector.”

The mural also features a depiction of the union’s founder, Ron Weakley, tying together the union’s storied history with its bright future.

But the central figures in the mural are the families, because at its core, that’s what the union is all about – fighting for and protecting quality jobs that allow Local 1245 members to support their families and raise their children.

“I wanted the mural to be broad enough so that different people in the union can look at the wall and find something in it to relate to,” Pineda explained. “I want members to be able to connect with the imagery in the mural and with the union itself. I also want to give the wall some longevity, so it stays relevant over time.”

Pineda noted that he appreciates how the mural fits in with the photos and historical paraphernalia that is already on display throughout the union hall. “It’s nice to have the hand-brushed quality of the mural offset by all of the historical objects and images,” said Pineda.

The Process

Pineda began the first phase of the Local 1245 mural in the fall of 2014. He met with members of the Executive Board and the union’s staff to find out what they’d like to see, and he also conducted his own research to learn more about the union and its diverse membership.

“I put together some ideas that reflected the core concept … then the E-board gave me some additional feedback about the portrayal, particularly in terms of what the union will be like in the future,” said Pineda.

He took their feedback into account in his next draft of the design, and got the go-ahead to begin transferring his drawing to the wall in late 2014. He started the detailed transfer process shortly after the New Year, and then the painting process began in earnest.

“In spending a good amount of time here, I’ve realized this union hall is a pretty vibrant place,” said Pineda, referring to the gamut of meetings, conferences, and members coming and going nearly every day. “It’s also a really visual environment. I’m glad that there’s room for the mural in this great central location. I think it’s pretty terrific.”

The mural is well on its way to completion. Drop by Weakley Hall later this spring to see how art tells our union’s story while bringing new color and movement to our headquarters.
Chasing Darkness

"A s linemen, whether we recognize it or not, whether we choose to celebrate it or not, we chase darkness away from humanity," That’s Brady Hansen speaking. Philosopher, crusader, poet—it’s not easy to pigeon-hole Hansen. Call him a linemen on a mission. As described in the last issue of Utility Reporter, that mission is to help linemen in under-developed countries “chase darkness away” without getting killed in the process.

On Jan. 14 Hansen was at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, inviting IBEW 1245 linemen to consider helping linemen in the South American nation of Suriname. He also asked the linemen to remember it is that it is linemen provide to society.

“We bring that source of energy that educates, lifts, cleans, warms and cares for humanity. Whether it’s making a secondary connection or working off a helicopter, that’s what we do,” said Hansen.

“It’s pretty easy to forget it. It’s pretty easy to take it for granted. It’s amazing,” he said.

He mentioned IBEW 1245 Lineman Jeremy Wright. What impressed him most about Hansen’s project was simply this: “The Brotherhood. I like that. It’s good stuff.”


“TID pact ratified

I BEW 1245 members at Tuolumne Irrigation District have ratified a new agreement through 2016.

The agreement includes one year of retroactive, across-the-board wage increases of 3%, with 5% for Troubleshooters. Another identical set of across-the-board wage increases will apply for 2015. Effective in 2016, the rubber glove certification premium will be 8% (included in the base rate).

The equal distribution of overtime and call-out bypass compensation procedures have been updated and include the new automated call-out system. Overtime meal language will provide for specific compensation at the overtime rate. Medical benefits will be through the CSAC-EIA Joint Powers Authority Benefit Program, where there is an increased pool of plan participants.

Negotiating for IBEW 1245 were TID members Pat Patterson, Jeff Sturm, Dennis Mattos along with IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell and Business Representative Charley Souders.

Modesto pact ratified

I BEW 1245 members at Modesto Irrigation District voted on Feb. 9 to approve a new tentative agreement.

The three-year agreement includes a general wage increases of 2.5% in the first year, 2.75% in the second year, and 2.75% in the third year.

Under the new agreement, promotional opportunities within the District will be increased, and the number of District applicants required before outside applicants are considered will be reduced. A new section was added to the agreement addressing Overtime on Mutual Aid. The pact also includes increased flexibility for accrued leave utilization in one-hour increments.

On-Call provisions are to be expanded to include Operations Technicians. Improved overtime language will now provide a rest period of eight hours at the completion of emergency work whenever more than four hours of emergency work occurs during the 16-hour period immediately preceding the start of a work shift.

Negotiating for IBEW 1245 were MID members Mike Gomes, Steve Carlson, Kurt Celli, Travis Weese, Brad Stapleton and Fred Albertoni, along with Business Representative Charley Souders.
The Next Chapter: IBEW 1245
Business Rep Brian Kapaun Retires

Though it might seem like he spent his whole life in the trade, IBEW 1245 Business Rep Brian Kapaun didn’t always work in General Construction for PG&E. For the first decade of his professional life, he actually sold shoes at the mall.

“I worked for GallenKamp Shoes as a store manager at Weberstown Mall in Stockton,” Kapaun recalls. “I watched as my assistant manager interviewed for and landed a PG&E GC Field Clerk position. As he was leaving, I said ‘What about me?’ ... and he pointed me to the right person at PG&E for an interview.”

The rest, as they say, is history. Kapaun hired on with PG&E in 1978 as a 1st Field Clerk in GC, and was initiated into IBEW 1245 in 1979. He worked in GC for PG&E for 35 years.

“By going to PG&E, I gained about a month of my own time for each year of my life, simply by not working long hours each day, by not working weekends and holidays,” he noted.

But with the improved hours and pay came a whole lot of time on the road away from his home and family.

“During the first five years with PG&E, I tracked my GC travels on a AAA paper map, and the many pencil lines wore through the paper,” Kapaun said.

Union Career

Brother Kapaun was a committed union member from Day One. He became a shop steward in 1981, and held a multitude of volunteer positions over the years. In his early years with the union, he served as Unit Recorder for the Loomis Unit #3510. In 2007, he was appointed to fill the GC At-Large seat on the union’s Advisory Council.

He also served on the bargaining committee from 1999 to 2009 as well as a number of other committees. He’s the kind of guy who never shied away from an opportunity to get more involved with the union.

He came on staff at IBEW 1245 in January of 2010, and for the past five years he’s worked with PG&E GC members in the North Coast. After a long union career, Kapaun decided to retire in February of 2015.

The Next Chapter

“It has been a challenging, wonderful and rewarding experience serving the IBEW members through the years as both a shop steward and Business Representative,” said Kapaun. “I will miss the challenge of the day-to-day Business Rep interaction with the members and pleasure of working with the Union staff and fellow Reps. I have treasured and enjoyed my work as a Rep but look forward to retirement and the next chapter of my life.”

“Brian has always been the consummate professional,” IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell said of Kapaun. “He’s held many different roles with us, and he has definitely made a difference. We thank him for his service to the union and wish him all the best.”

Ralph Kenyon joins IBEW 1245 staff

IBEW Local 1245 is pleased to announce that Brother Ralph Kenyon has joined the union staff.

Brother Kenyon is a 25-year member of the IBEW, and has been a part of Local 1245 for more than 10 years. He will be serving as the new Business Representative representing PG&E members in the North Bay & Sonoma Divisions (San Rafael, Napa, Vallejo, Petaluma, Geyserville & Santa Rosa).

Prior to joining the union staff, Kenyon worked as a Division Lineman at PG&E’s Richmond Service Center. He has served as a Shop Steward and a member of the Overview Committee for the Knowledge and Skills Program. He’s also an Outside Line Apprentice Instructor and Subject Matter Expert (SME) over the Apprentice curriculum development. He previously served as a temporary Business Rep in the Outside Line department from January 2012 through June of 2012.

“I feel it’s a great honor to have been chosen to serve the members of Local 1245,” Kenyon said.

Welcome aboard Brother Kenyon!

Business Rep Ken Amaral Retires

IBEW 1245 sends warm wishes to Business Representative Ken Amaral, who will be retiring from the union staff this month.

Amaral is a 38-year IBEW member who began his PG&E career as a Senior Hydro Clerk in Auburn. He served on the union’s bargaining committee for several years. In 2011, he was appointed to the Advisory Council, where he represented the old Drum Division of PG&E, Plumas Sierra REC, and City of Roseville.

He joined the staff of IBEW 1245 in 2013, and represented members in the Stockton Division (except the Credit Center), Gas Systems Maintenance and Gas Systems Operations.

We thank Brother Amaral for his years of service to the union and wish him luck in his future endeavors.

Kyle Whitman joins IBEW 1245 staff

The union is pleased to announce that 13-year IBEW member Kyle Whitman has joined the staff at IBEW 1245.

Brother Whitman started his tenure at PG&E in 2002 as a utility worker in General Construction, and worked his way up to the Miscellaneous Equipment Operator (MEO) position over the course of 5½ years. He then successfully bid into the Apprentice Watersystem Repairperson program in Alta, completed his apprenticeship, and became a Journeyman Watersystem Repairperson. For the past nine months, he has served as temporary Watersystem Crew Lead.

Whitman has been a Shop Steward for four years and served on two Ad Hoc committees. He has also been a member of the Exhibit XVI committee since 2012.

In his new role as Business Representative, Whitman will be working with PG&E General Construction members in Sacramento, Sierra and the North Valley.

Welcome aboard Brother Whitman!

Rey Mendoza joins IBEW 1245 staff

The union is pleased to welcome Brother Jose “Rey” Mendoza to the staff of IBEW 1245. Brother Mendoza will be serving as the new Business Representative for clerical members at the PG&E Customer Service offices at Stockton, Lodi, Manteca, Tracy, Jackson, Angels Camp & San Jose, along with the San Francisco General Office, San Jose Call Center, Concord RMC & PSEA, Stockton Credit & Records and Stockton Call Center.

Brother Mendoza is a seven-year member of IBEW 1245 and began his career with PG&E at the Fresno Call Center, where he worked as a Service Rep and Senior Service Rep. He has also served as a Shop Steward, Organizing Steward and delegate to the Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Central Labor Council. Additionally, Mendoza sat on the Clerical Bargaining Committee in 2014 and Contact Center Operations Rewards and Recognition Committee in 2012.

From June through October of 2014, Mendoza served as a temporary Business Rep, filling in for Gracie Clark during her maternity leave. He is “excited and appreciative” to continue serving the members of Local 1245 in the Business Rep capacity.

“I will take advantage of this opportunity by effectively representing the IBEW members in my area, promoting solidarity and increasing member participation in Union activities,” Mendoza said.

Welcome aboard Brother Mendoza!

Todd Wooten joins IBEW 1245 staff

The union is pleased to announce that 20-year member Kyle Whitman has joined the staff at IBEW 1245.

Brother Wooten formerly worked for PG&E as a Work and Resource Coordinator in Marysville, and has been a member of IBEW 1245 for 29 years. He also sat on the 1245 Advisory Council for 12 years. Wooten will serve as the new business representative for Title 200 members in the North Valley and California Gas Transmission members from Willows to Burney.

“I’m looking forward to this assignment,” said Wooten, “and would like to thank Business Manager Tom Dalzell and the staff for giving me this opportunity.”

Welcome aboard Brother Wooten!
BEW 1245 crews for Pacific Gas & Electric worked around the clock restoring service to customers in the wake of the major storm that pummeled northern California in mid-December. Wind gusts reached 95 mph in some higher elevations, with many communities reporting several inches of rainfall. Over 400,000 customers lost power, but service was restored quickly to almost all of them.

It’s no fun working in the rain, but these crews did what had to be done. Foreman Rich Surina, Linemen Cho Nip and Vic Ramil, and Apprentices Brandon Yarbrough, Sean Smith and Adam Moreno took advantage of a break in the weather on Dec. 12 to replace two storm-damaged transformers in San Francisco.
Over 400,000 customers lost power, but service was restored quickly to almost all of them.
Productive meeting for IBEW, Berkshire Hathaway

Local 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell and Senior Assistant Business Manager Dennis Seyes joined Nevada Energy President & CEO Paul Caudill and Director of Labor Relations Ryan Bellows Feb. 25 for a day of meetings with IBEW and company leaders at Alabama Power in Birmingham, Alabama.

Alabama Power is seen as the gold standard in collaborative relationships between the IBEW and utility management. Local 1245 and other members of the Utility Coordinating Council (which is comprised of IBEW locals representing workers at Berkshire Hathaway-owned utilities) invited Berkshire Hathaway’s CEO to the meeting in Birmingham to get a first-hand look at the benefits of a collaborative labor-management relationship. Five International Vice Presidents of the IBEW, as well as IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Hunter, joined five local union business managers at the meeting.

The day was an impressive display of collaboration, demonstrating a powerful narrative about a union and company that were able to make a transition from a polarized, adversarial relationship to a productive, cooperative one. Paul Caudill has spoken publicly about the benefits of the meeting, and we are in the process of planning a labor-management leadership seminar about Alabama Power’s effective model and collaborative process.

“Of all the Berkshire Hathaway utilities, NV Energy appears to lead the way in embracing the benefits of collaboration,” said Dalzell. “We have several years before negotiations at NV Energy begin for us to continue developing the relationship, but as things stand now, the trip to Alabama was instructive and positive.”

Food drive nets $1,100

A group of IBEW 1245 members in Nevada took up a collection to support Evelyn Mount’s annual Holiday Food Drive this past December. They succeeding in raising over $1,100, which they used to purchase a pickup truck full of food, including 40 turkeys, to donate to Mount’s Outreach Center. The also wrote Mount a check for $270.

David Thieme, Gayle Anderson and John Wilson were in charge of collecting donations. Thieme and Wilson, along Carl Shoemaker and his two sons, John and Jeffrey, purchased the groceries and dropped them off at Mount’s food bank.

“I want to thank everyone that donated to make the 1245 Evelyn Mount food drive a success,” said Wilson. “Union and MPAT members donated generously to make this possible.”

Right-to-Work laws reduce wages

Right-to-work laws have definite effects. A 1987 study of 21 right-to-work states found that the passage of such laws reduced union membership—by 5 to 10 percent in the first five years. As a result, the wealth of corporate shareholders grows—by 2 to 4 percent, according to one study. Apparently, this comes out of workers’ pockets: An Economic Policy Institute study found that in right-to-work states, average wages were about 3.2 percent lower (or $1,500 a year) than in other states.

Yet no studies conclusively demonstrate that right-to-work laws create more jobs or a more vibrant economy. Surveys of both large corporations and small manufacturers about their location decisions have found that right-to-work had little to no bearing—more influential factors included highway accessibility and construction costs. And although low-wage, right-to-work states had some success in luring manufacturing to the South in the mid-20th century, today such jobs are likely to head overseas from both the North and the South.

From In These Times: Read the full story by David Moberg at http://intothetimes.org/article/17735/scott-walker-strikes-again
CARA defends Medicare in 2015

By Ken Rawles

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) is working hard to continue our fight for working families and labor and seniors in 2015. The GOP is proposing a voucher system for Medicare and wants to raise the age to qualify for benefits. This issue has given CARA its first campaign for 2015: "Take Action to Protect and Expand Medicare Today!"

CARA sent out forms with four post cards to be filled out and sent into the CARA office. The first batch has already been delivered to Senator Feinstein, Senator Boxer, President Obama, and California members of Congress. We are still gathering cards and there’s still time for you to join this action. Go to the CARA website at http://www.californi alliance.org/.

CARA is now in its 12th year and I am very excited about what’s coming up in 2015!

CARA has its constitutional convention this October in Ontario, Ca.

IBEW 1245 retiree Tom Bird is now the president of the Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans, our sister organization in Nevada. CARA and NARA will be working together wherever we can.

IBEW 1245 retiree Ken Rawles is editor of "Ninth News" for IBEW Ninth District retirees and an activist with the IBEW 1245 Retirees Club as well as CARA.

Legislative training for Nevada retirees

by Tom "T" Bird

IBEW 1245 Retiree Club members attended the first of several 2015 Legislative Training sessions provided by the Nevada AFL-CIO at the Northern Nevada Labor Temple in Sparks, Nevada on January 29, 2015. These trainings will be provided in both southern and northern Nevada to all affiliated members and will be most helpful to our brothers and sisters for future legislation affecting labor and seniors in Nevada and our nation.

Tom "T" Bird is an IBEW 1245 retiree and president of NARA.
Chico
Marysville
January 31, 2015

SERVICE AWARDS

30 Years Front row, from left: Michael Cooper, Richard Jaster, Donnie Landingham. Back row, from left: Dave Husa, Randy Walton, Frederick Jones.

35 Years Front row, from left: Pamela Crawford and Debbie Weddle. Back row, from left: Terrence Hope, Bruce Mattson and Jeffrey Howard.

Photos by John Storey

30 Years Front row, from left: David MacLean, David Powers, Ed Otten. Back row, from left: John Koehn, James Robbins, Glenn Kalaveras, Steve Smith, and Bradley Burgess.


30 Years Front row, from left: David MacLean, David Powers, Ed Otten. Back row, from left: John Koehn, James Robbins, Glenn Kalaveras, Steve Smith, and Bradley Burgess.

HONOREES

55 Years
Brown Jr., Donald

40 Years
Sevart, Ivan

35 Years
Barrack, Randy
Barrow, Russell
Crawford, Pamela
Finato, Robert
Headley, George
Hollstein, Rita
Hope, Terrence
Howard, Jeffrey
Jones, Rayon
Jarkiewicz, James
Levalette, Neil
Mattson, Bruce
Monahan, Richard
O’Sullivan, Kevin
Stoner, Jeffrey
Tolbert, Rebecca
Velasquez, Joe
Viera, Sylvan
Weddle, Deborah

30 Years
Barker, Bill
Bianak, Sherry
Burgess, Bradley
Busby, Britt
Cochrane, Gregory
Cooper, Michael
Davey, Daniel
Davis, John
Dobbs, Greg
Ellford, Douglas
Faugier, Edgar
Flores, Anthony
Habert, Bruce
Hostetter, Anthony
Husa, Dave
Jaster, Richard
Jennings, Kirk
Jones, Fredrick
Kalaveras, Glenn
Koehn, John
Landingham, Donnie
Le Blanc, Richard
Lewis, Donald
MacLean II, David
Menezes, Timothy
Michels, Duane
Nelson, Richard
Otten, Edward
Patton, Dan
Powers, David
Robbins, James
Smith, Steven
Tassone, Louis
Vecio, Dave
Walton, Randy
Weatherston, Glenn
West, Gary
Wilkins, Joe

25 Years
Alger, Rock
Adler, Michael
Dausast, Christopher
Davisson, Kyle
Duenas, Rudy
Feik, Donald
Gomes, Jeffrey
Lopez, John
Matney, Dorinda
Peter, Jolene
Steele, Bryan

20 Years
Boly, Bradley
Brawers, Ronald
Breitg, Paul
Britton, Philip
Capra, Laura
Chapman, Larry
Collins, Stephanie
Cox, Adam
Hendrix, Randy
Holt, Jeffrey
Holt, Jeffrey
Jones, Merle
La Roche, John
Lowe, Erik
Tanner, Todd
Vincelet, Dennis
Waters, James
Wearin, Justin

15 Years
Davis, Randy
Davison III, Albert
Dryden, Val
Frant, Jay
Franklin, Don
Gordon, Steven
Leslie, Valden
Mallet, William
Reynolds, Shirley
Rich, Mickey
Stockton, Lex
Vazquez, Mark

10 Years
Ahllens, Andrew
Alonzo, Robert
Avila, Patrick
Brodersen, Rick
Brown, Daniel
Button, Kenneth
Crooks, Mike
Cunniff, Trever
Downs, Margaret
Duncan, Clarion
Evans, Rex
Garst, Tyvor
Goslin, Dean
Gray, Timothy
Grider, Lee
Harris, Gene
Hartley, Walter
Hicks, Larissa
Huffman, John
Barno, Ernesto
Inman, David
Johnstone, Anthony
King, Jason
Lee, Michael
Lewis, St., Denton
Lujan, Juan
Martinez, Zenaide
McLain, James
Meyers, Benjamin
Ogourd, Charles
Paul, William
Place, Dennis
Plummer, Michael
Ramirez, Timothy
Raymond, Charles
Richmond, Matthew
Rincon, Martin
Rios, Jose
Rivera, Primitivo
Robinson, Jeremy
Santana, Dan Juan
Shawles, Joshua
Soule, Gabriel
Stiefel, Chris
Swenson, Frankke
Wallace, Robert
Weiss, Ron
Willis, Katie
Wise, Clayton

5 Years
Allread, John
Becker, Jason
Berson, Jerry
Bohn, Jonathan
Boyles, Andrew
Brewer, Charlie
Brown, Chad
Back, Michael
Cardoso Jr., Richard
Cant, David
Duncan, Derek
Emerson, Daniel
Fambrourgh, Kurtis
Forsberg, Kai
Galvan, Julio
George, Craig
Giffin, Earl
Goss, Blake
Higgins, Russell
Holcomb, Karen
Kramer, Zachary
Lance, Ryan
Larson, Barry
Linsen, Dean
Low, Derek
Lopf, Richard
Madsen, David
Morales Raya, Jose
Morgan,Blaine
Newman, Sara
Nielsen, Michael
Ott, Seth
Parker, Karl
Peres Jr, Pedro
Powell, Scott
Purdum, Sean
Ramos, Sandra
Randall, Travis
Roberson, Patricia
Rumsey, Robert
Sanchez, Gerardo
Schneider, Kevin
Shandal, Greg
Smith, George
Smith, Zachary
Spencer, Darin
Spencer, Jason
Steiner, Justin
Storhrs, Cody
Terry, Marcus
Walther, Rodger
White, Cody
White, Mark
Williams, Avery
Williams, Kevin
Congratulations on your service!

Eureka
February 20, 2015

HONORREES

35 Years
Damon, Charles
Johnson, Martin
Lamar, Kirk
Miller, Karen

30 Years
Avila, Frank
Bohannan, Brent
Lovergine, Ronda
Mayney III, Daniel
Quinlan, Robert
Sanchez, Craig

25 Years
Bryan Jr., William
Goodman, William
Mcclelland, Karen

20 Years
Botelho, Cindy
Nurse, Anthonius
Young, Jeffrey

15 Years
Andersen, Todd
Torgersen, Robert

10 Years
Angeli, Nicholas
Cook, Steve
Estrada, Adrian
Grace, Jonathan
Hooper, Kyle
Nichols, David
Woods, Joshua

5 Years
Attebery, Cody
Avala, Luis
Barrota, Colby
Berti, Bob
Black, Joshua
Booswell, Christopher
Brittain, Christopher

Chadbourne, Benton
Caro, Brian
Grundem, Casey
Hagquist, Ronald
Kane, Mark
Lidlow, Mark
Martinez, Jose
Mccauley, Curtiss
McDonald, Brandon
Mosier, Ron
Mosier, Thomas
Noel, Buck
Reno, William
Shinn, Timothy
Taylor, Aubrey
Taylor, Sydney

From left: Carl Lamer, Brandon McDonald, and Joshua Black.

Photos by
John Storey

From left: Todd Andersen and (Hollesen).

From left: William Bryan and (Hollesen).

35 Years
From left: Chuck Kelly, Ed Quier, Martin Johnson and Business Rep Sonny Hollesen.

30 Years
From left: Daniel Meaney and (Hollesen).

10 Years
From left: Nicholas Angeli and (Hollesen).

5 Years
From left: Scott Powell, Gerardo Sanchez, Zachary Kramer.
Come on over and take a look at this. IBEW 1245 members Inder Johal, Shane Peck and Shawn Reel are pulling 4-ought cable, part of a circuit tie for the south side of Merced. “It’s been needed for quite a while,” says Reel.

All three are linemen for the Merced Irrigation District. The circuit tie will help balance the load and give the District an alternative way to feed power to the area in the event of a problem. And it’s all underground. “Everything in Merced is underground,” says Reel. “If there was an Underground Rodeo we’d kick ass.”

The Merced Irrigation District has been providing power in Merced since President Calvin Coolidge pressed a golden telegraph key to start generators humming at Exchequer Dam on Lake McClure in 1926. It was replaced in 1967 by the New Exchequer, a monster of a rockfill dam with an elevation of 879 feet.

On the business side of this monster dam, where the powerhouse is rated at 94.5 megawatts, you’re likely to find John White, a powerhouse technician for the District. New Exchequer is a remote location, and White likes it like that. “For the most part we’re here by ourselves,” he says, talking over the roar of the water coursing out the back of the powerhouse. “It’s peaceful.” Besides that, he likes working with other trained employees in a safe work environment. He credits IBEW 1245 for keeping conditions at the District “up to industry standards.”

But there’s one condition the union can’t do anything about. This February the reservoir reached its lowest level in history, at just 63,489 acre feet—less than 7 percent of total capacity. That’s what three years of severe drought will do. Tough on farmers, tough on everybody. Anybody know a rain dance? We’d all appreciate it.
On the assumption that it’s going to rain or snow again someday, work goes on at Merced Irrigation District. A crew headed by Joaquin Mancebo is replacing a headgate on a small dam where water from the Merced River is diverted into a canal. They put in a temporary steel plate to control the water flow. Back at the shop, “we manufacture a brand new gate, build it all brand new...”

"It's peaceful."
There’s a lot of beautiful country around Merced. If you’re down that way, you might want to stop at McClure Point and McSwain Parks. “If you’re going to have the lake you’re going to have parks and recreation,” says Dan Goodson, a Park Ranger I for the District. “The rangers do everything up here,” he says. “We do construction, we do plumbing, we do it all.” There used to be a couple dozen

REPLACING RAMADAS

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Hauling out an old grill from a picnic area are, from left, Brock Pisacco, Bret Surdich and Carlos Gonzales.

Mancebo is a 17-year IBEW 1245 member and proud of it. “They’ve stood by us. The union sets a standard of living for us.” With a union, he says, “You’re more productive. If you’re miserable, you’re not very productive. You have to feel good about what you do.”

Spiffing up the place are, from left: Bret Surdich, Park Ranger 2; and Dan Goodson, Carlos Gonzales, and Brock Pisacco, Park Rangers 1.

Employees in the powerhouse at the original Exchequier Dam. Date unknown. Historical photo courtesy of Merced Irrigation District
Organizing Stewards Gear Up

By Rebecca Band

IBEW 1245’s ground-breaking “Organizing Steward” program has only been in effect for 18 months, but it’s already making a remarkable difference in the culture of activism in the union.

“We stood with teachers on strike in Medford, Oregon. We provided bilingual organizers to the Teamsters in two hard fought organizing campaigns. We mobilized 19 volunteers to door knock in Redding, CA for a critical election. And in the Fall of 2014, 35 organizing stewards and prospective organizing stewards participated full time in the mid-term elections that won significant gains for our members in California, fought the good fight in Nevada and defended the interests of working families across America,” noted IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell.

“I’m incredibly excited and honored to be a part of this year’s Organizing Steward program,” said new Organizing Steward Melissa Becerril. “Last year was my first year being involved in the organizing aspect of the union. From grassroots campaigning in Fresno County to canvassing in Colorado, it’s been quite the journey. Organizing is more than just politics, it’s a movement, and I’m proud to be part of it!”

Since this year isn’t a big election year, the Organizing Stewards are preparing for a series of activities aimed at revigorating the principles of solidarity and volunteerism that the Labor Movement was founded on.

“We should be able to do some serious movement-building this year,” said Eric Sunderland, an Organizing Steward who has been part of the program since its inception. “I’m getting it started with a bang by attending the Fight for Fifteen regional leadership conference in Atlanta in February. I expect to come back from Atlanta fired up and ready for some huge coalition-building efforts.

“An Arrow in Our Quiver”

On Saturday, Jan. 24, the Organizing Stewards came back to Weakley Hall for the quarterly Advisory Council meeting, where they were recognized by the union leadership for their dedication and hard work.

IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell detailed some of the campaigns and activities they’ve taken part in over the past year, and explained how the organizing experiences these members have gained can help the union protect and improve jobs. He cited political threats to the PG&E Diablo Canyon facility as just one example:

“Diablo Canyon provides 600 jobs for our members,” Dalzell said, “but right now, there are many cannons aimed at Diablo Canyon. I believe that at some point in the near future, we’re going to have to deploy a full campaign to protect the jobs there. We’re going to need a strong ground game, and we have these trained warriors who are experienced and ready to do it.”

“These Organizing Stewards have done a phenomenal job,” Dalzell continued. “They’re an arrow in our quiver and part of the personality of our union. Thanks to them, we’re becoming a more multi-dimensional and well-rounded union.”

The Organizing Stewards were called up one by one, and many brought family and friends along with them to join the swearing-in ceremony. After Local 1245 President Mike Davis administered the oath to them as a group, Organizing Steward Kevin Krummes shared a few words of reflection.

“30 years ago when I started at PG&E, I had no sense of union … but now, thanks to the vision and foresight of Business Manager Tom Dalzell and the generosity and courage of our Executive Board, all that’s changed,” Krummes said. “With the advent of the Organizing Steward program, my life and the lives of all those up here with me have been forever altered. We’ve won some, lost a few, but more importantly we’ve changed the narrative, redrawn the face of union power and reawakened the spirit of solidarity.”

Interested in becoming an Organizing Steward? Contact your Business Representative or an Organizing Steward or visit the Organizing section of our website.
Now that’s a winner!

IBEW 1245 member Shawn Murphy took third place in the national photo competition sponsored by the International Office of the IBEW in Washington DC. The photo brought Murphy a $100 prize. Here’s how the photo was described on the IBEW website:

“Take away the linemen, the wires and the pole, and you’ve got a crisp, clean nature photo worthy of a travel brochure. Add the members back in, and you get a sense for how, for thousands of IBEW men and women, outside work isn’t just a job – it’s a natural calling.”

Shawn Murphy, an eleven-year IBEW member at the City of Roseville, took this prize-winning photo.
Utility Arborist Association Identifies Wage and Safety Issues

T he IBEW 1245 tree trimmer representa-
tives recently attended a Safety Seminar held by the Utility Arborist Association in Sacramento. In the opening remarks of the seminar, it was reported that Utility Line Clearance Tree Trimmers were underpaid nationally by 20%. It was also stated that the industry as a whole would be far more productive if it could retain people with at least three years of experience. The association, which includes all the large contractors who are signatory to IBEW Local Union 1245, recognizes it needs a different approach for discipline especially regarding safety issues. They went on to describe their own discipline programs as punitive rather than reforma-
tive. This punitive approach costs the industry many millions of dollars annu-
ally when viewed nationally.

Many of the top managers of the sig-
natary contractors who were in atten-
dance nodded in agreement, and yet they continue to use punitive “zero tol-
erance” discipline methods, and most have special policies for selected safety violations that result in immediate termi-
native. This punitive approach costs the industry many millions of dollars annu-
ally when viewed nationally.

This approach doesn’t work in terms of discipline results in termination of very experienced individuals. Some of these selected vio-
lations that result in immediate termi-
nation include being one step up on a
turón de seguridad cuando el camión se mueve aunque sea un par de centí-
metros. Aunque consideramos que la seguridad en el sitio de trabajo es la prioridad número uno, no creemos que estas políticas de tolerancia cero sean adecuadas ni productivas.

Asplundh en Reno

En enero de este año, NV Energy adju-
dicó a Asplundh sus contratos de árbo-
les y la adjudicación del contrato tenía un peso crucial para los trabajadores y las personas con tres años o más de ex-
periencia. La asociación, que incluye a los contratistas mayores signatarios con el sindicato IBEW 1245, reconoce que necesita un enfoque diferente en lo que se refiere a sanciones, especialmente en asuntos de seguridad. A continuación describieron su propio programa disci-
plinario como punitivo en vez de refor-
mador. El enfoque punitivo le cuesta a la industria muchos millones de dólares anualmente a nivel nacional.

Muchos de los gerentes de alto nivel de las contratistas signatarias presentes en el evento estuvieron de acuerdo, sin embargo continuaban utilizando métodos disciplinarios punitivos de “toler-
ancia cero”, y muchos tienen políticas especiales para algunas violaciones es-
pecíficas de seguridad, donde una sola violación resulta en el despido. Esta to-
da la documentación de trabajadores se mueve aún un par de centímetros. Aunque consideramos que la seguridad en el sitio de trabajo es la prioridad número uno, no creemos que estas políticas de tolerancia cero sean adecuadas ni productivas.

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pecíficas de seguridad, donde una sola violación resulta en el despido. Esta to-
miembros, empleador y clientes al lado, y estamos satisfechos con nuestro exitoso resultado.

Davey Tree

We continue to encounter issues with
turón de seguridad cuando el camión se mueve aunque sea un par de centí-
metros. Aunque consideramos que la seguridad en el sitio de trabajo es la prioridad número uno, no creemos que estas políticas de tolerancia cero sean adecuadas ni productivas.

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dicó a Asplundh sus contratos de árbo-
les y la adjudicación del contrato tenía un peso crucial para los trabajadores y las personas con tres años o más de ex-
periencia. La asociación, que incluye a los contratistas mayores signatarios con el sindicato IBEW 1245, reconoce que necesita un enfoque diferente en lo que se refiere a sanciones, especialmente en asuntos de seguridad. A continuación describieron su propio programa disci-
plinario como punitivo en vez de refor-
mador. El enfoque punitivo le cuesta a la industria muchos millones de dólares anualmente a nivel nacional.

Muchos de los gerentes de alto nivel de las contratistas signatarias presentes en el evento estuvieron de acuerdo, sin embargo continuaban utilizando métodos disciplinarios punitivos de “toler-
ancia cero”, y muchos tienen políticas especiales para algunas violaciones es-
pecíficas de seguridad, donde una sola violación resulta en el despido. Esta to-
miembros, empleador y clientes al lado, y estamos satisfechos con nuestro exitoso resultado.

Davey Tree

We continue to encounter issues with
turón de seguridad cuando el camión se mueve aunque sea un par de centí-
metros. Aunque consideramos que la seguridad en el sitio de trabajo es la prioridad número uno, no creemos que estas políticas de tolerancia cero sean adecuadas ni productivas.

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Davey Tree

We continue to encounter issues with

Lines Clearance Tree Trimmers

Utility Arborist Association Identifies Wage and Safety Issues

The IBEW 1245 tree trimmer representatives recently attended a Safety Seminar held by the Utility Arborist Association in Sacramento. In the opening remarks of the seminar, it was reported that Utility Line Clearance Tree Trimmers were underpaid nationally by 20%. It was also stated that the industry as a whole would be far more productive if it could retain people with at least three years of experience. The association, which includes all the large contractors who are signatory to IBEW Local Union 1245, recognizes it needs a different approach for discipline especially regarding safety issues. They went on to describe their own discipline programs as punitive rather than reformative. This punitive approach costs the industry many millions of dollars annually when viewed nationally.

Many of the top managers of the signatory contractors who were in attendance nodded in agreement, and yet they continue to use punitive “zero tolerance” discipline methods, and most have special policies for selected safety violations that result in immediate termination of very experienced individuals. Some of these selected violations that result in immediate termination include being one step up on a ladder and not wearing a seat belt if the truck moves even an inch. While we feel safety in the work place is the number one priority, we do not believe these zero tolerance policies are appropriate or productive.

Asplundh in Reno

In January of this year, Asplundh was awarded the tree contract for NV Energy, and the contract award had a union requirement associated with it. This is region where we have previously struggled to get a union foothold in, and we are excited to announce that a first agreement has been reached.

We spent several weeks in joint negotiations on this first agreement with IBEW Local Union 396 in an effort to have continuity between the north and south areas of NV Energy. The idea behind this approach is to establish individual agreements for each local’s jurisdiction, while at the same time ensuring all the workers have the same benefit package and working conditions so they can work in either area without any loss in wages or benefits. This approach works well for the members, employer and customers alike, and we are pleased with our successful result.

Davey Tree

We continue to encounter issues with vacation hours from 2013 and 2014 not being paid. The issue now is members are complaining about lost vacation. We currently have members requesting vacation pay for 2014, but supervisors are not willing to confirm whether vacation time can be guaranteed or secured during the requested period, especially since vacations were put on hold for half of the year during 2014. We have a couple GRC matters on the table which should, hopefully, be resolved soon. We held a GRC two weeks ago in American Canyon. The company is implementing nine-hour days starting March 1st. Davey has hired a few extra people in the Los Padres and Central Coast areas.

It has been quiet lately with no major issues. The union met with the supervisor in Madera and gave him some union hire packets. They indicated plans to hire two or more crews for a total of five new employees.

Mario’s Tree Service

They are working and staying busy in the Bay Area for Utility Tree and Wright’s Tree Service. They are helping Utility Tree in San Jose and Yuba City. No major issues.

Synergy

They are helping Utility Tree in San Jose and Yuba City. No major issues.

Trees Inc.

They currently have a strong work schedule and are doing a lot of reliability work. The tree forecast has increased and the Mountain Firewood Enterprise helping them to stay in compliance. Trees Inc. V.C. is staying strong in Yosemite and Fresno divisions. No major issues. A GRC meeting was held last month in Sacramento. The Committee is still working on several open issues system-wide. We expect to resolve the majority of matters. We also have numerous LMM issues.

Utility Tree Service

The company received an extension on the contract on SMUD property until June 2015. They are keeping busy in the Bakersfield and San Jose divisions. They have brought in Pacific Tree Expert Co. to help them with reliability work in both areas. A GRC Committee meeting was held last month to discuss all open matters. All grievances are being worked on with the Committee. We have several open issues including receiving complaints of the lack of equipment system-wide.

Wendy’s Tree Service

All quiet.

Wright’s Tree Service

The forecast has jumped and the company is working utility lines among the Bay Area. They are working transmission in the Central Coast area and also hired a few people there. There are no grievances at the current time.

Utility Reporter

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Units reach out to community

All of the following unit donations to various charitable organizations from December through February were approved by the IBEW 1245 Executive Board.

**Carson City Retirees Chapter**
donated $500 from their Community Fund to the following organization: NAMI Western Nevada. NAMI brings awareness to, and provides support and advocacy for, mental illness programs.

**Unit 1221, BUeltown**, donated $500 to the Coastal Radiatation Oncology department of the Mission Hope Cancer Center.

**Unit 1511, San Jose**, donated $200 to Working Partnerships USA's Annual Holiday Party for low income families.

**Unit 3312, North Lake Tahoe**, donated $250 to the Bayside Military Ministry program, to assist with care packages for the troops.

**Unit 3311, Reno**, requested and received matching funds of $250 to be donated to Evelyn Mount, to assist with her community outreach program. This unit has raised more than $250 to qualify for matching funds from the Union.

**Unit 3512, Roseville**, donated $500 to the Bayside Military Ministry program, to assist with care packages for the troops.

**Unit 3714, Ukiah**, donated $500 to Hospice of Ukiah.

**Unit 3812, Vacaville**, donated $500 to the American Legion VFW in Vacaville.

**Unit 4014, Frontier**, donated $500 to the Courage Worldwide, Inc. This is an organization that helps child victims of trafficking.

**Unit 4424, SMUD Trees**, donated $500 from their Community Fund to the following organizations: $250 to Galt Football Club; $250 to Soccer World.

**Unit 4719, Santa Rosa Trees**, donated $500 to the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

**Unit 4911, Outside Line**, donated $500 to the VFW Post 4647 of Antelope.

**Unit 1126, Turlock ID**, donated $250 to the Corey Borges Fund.

**Unit 2510, Manteca**, donated to the following: $200 to Harvest Food Bank; $200 to Love, Inc.

**Unit 2515, Modesto**, donated $200 to the "Wounded Warrior Project".

**Unit 5232, North Lake Tahoe/Cal Peco**, donated to the following: $250 to Virginia City Middle School Volleyball Team; $250 to Feather River Little League.

**Unit 1311, Hinkley**, donated $500 to the Barstow Little League's 2015 baseball season.

**Unit 2509, Stockton Clerical**, donated $150 to the Central Valley Organizing Steward's 2nd Annual softball tournament.

**Unit 2511, Stockton**, donated $150 to the Central Valley Organizing Steward's 2nd Annual softball tournament.

**Unit 3312, Carson City**, donated $250 to the Carson City Little League Team in 2015.

**Unit 5231, South Lake Tahoe**, donated $500 to the 11th Annual Reno Odyssey on May 29 and 30, 2015 for the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation Tahoe Pyramid Bikeway event.

**Unit 5232, North Lake Tahoe/Liberty**, donated $500 and requested the $250 in matching funds from the Union for the Gene Upshaw Cancer Center Event. This unit has raised more than $250 to qualify for matching funds from the Union.

**Reno/Sparks Retirees Chapter**
requested and received matching funds of $250 to be donated to the Washoe County Senior Meals on Wheels program. This unit has raised more than $250 to qualify for matching funds from the Union.

**Unit 1215, San Luis Obispo/Pismo**, donated $500 to the "Ride On Program." Ride On provides 24 hour transportation to residents of San Luis Obispo County; door to door rides for seniors; rides for veterans to VA clinics; Medi, Cal and Cen, Cal transportation; special event group transportation; Airport/Amtrak pick-up and drop-off with van, buses, and wheelchair-lift equipped vehicles.

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**Lompoc Unit Supports “Bikes 4 Kids” to Commemorate Brice Fabling**

BEW 1245 members and City of Lompoc employees Mark and Dorine Fabling have endured the kind of loss that no family should ever have to go through.

In 2005, the Fabings’ son, Brice, was killed in a tragic car accident on his way home from football practice. He was just 17 years old. The Fabings describe him as "full of life and extremely blessed with the all-around excellent gifted athletic ability" and note that "he was involved in so many community activities and took pride in giving to the needy and elderly as he grew up."

When the Fabings lost their son, the Lompoc community and fellow City employees came together, holding fundraisers to help them pay for the funeral and providing an outpouring of support, both financial and personal. This selfless act of giving touched the Fabings tremendously.

“It is forever embedded in our hearts, and it was then, as we were picking up the pieces of our lives, we knew we had to give back in some way to the community who gave to us during an extreme time of need,” according to the Fabings.

The family decided to give back to the community that helped them through such a difficult and painful loss by holding an annual fundraiser of their own. For the past eight years, the family has honored the memory of their son by distributing bikes and helmets in Brice’s name to needy children in the Lompoc community. This year, the Lompoc Unit of IBEW 1245 contributed $500 to the Fabing’s “Bikes 4 Kids” program, and helped the family’s charity exceed its goal.

“Our family was extremely touched when the young grandson of IBEW 1245 retiree Rod Thomas, Cooper Anderson, a cancer survivor and grandson of IBEW 1245 retiree Rod Thomas, presents a check to Northern Nevada Children’s Cancer Foundation.

**IBEW Retirees Support Northern Nevada Children’s Cancer Foundation**

When the young grandson of IBEW 1245 retiree Rod Thomas was diagnosed with childhood leukemia, the Nevada chapters of the IBEW 1245 Retirees club stepped up to support Rod's family through the difficult time. They collected donations on numerous occasions to help the family pay for the child's chemotherapy and other treatments.

Now, Rod’s grandson, Cooper Anderson, is ten years old – and officially cancer-free. To celebrate Cooper’s recovery, the Retirees Club recently donated $250 to the Northern Nevada Children’s Cancer Foundation (NNCCF), and Rod also contributed a matching donation from his own personal account. Cooper came along to present the check in person.

The NNCCF aims to enhance the quality of life for children with cancer and their families by providing financial assistance and compassionate support programs while advocating for increased research funds and raising public awareness. Learn more at https://nnccf.org/
I

It’s no secret that union membership is on the decline, and that downward trend has been ongoing for more than a decade. With such discouraging numbers and a slew of pundits claiming that unions are “dead” and “a thing of the past,” it’s easy to jump to the conclusion that the American Labor Movement is heading off a cliff and may never recover.

But according to Judy Ancel, history professor and Director of the Institute for Labor Studies at the University of Missouri in Kansas City, it’s times like these that have historically brought about a massive resurgence of the Labor Movement – so instead of bracing ourselves for the end of organized labor, we should be preparing to see a major boom in union membership in the very near future.

During an informative and interactive presentation to the IBEW 1245 Advisory Council on Jan. 24, Ancel pointed out that union membership saw a similar decline in the late 1920s and into the early 30s. Economists and so-called “experts” back then made the same predictions they’re making now, claiming that the demise of organized labor was inevitable. They even cited many of the same factors we’re hearing about today — weak labor laws, aggressive union-busting by employers, a consumer-driven society, loss of public support, technological advancements, the growth and strength of corporations – as the rationale behind their predictions.

But unions didn’t die in the 30s. Quite the opposite. These factors, which experts thought would mean the end of organized labor, actually spurred some of the most aggressive and effective union organizing efforts in our nation’s history, and lead to a period of historic union growth and strength that lasted for decades.

“These reasons and excuses have been recycled over and over in order to discourage us,” Ancel told the Advisory Council. “So don’t listen to predictions by economists or pundits about labor’s future. There will always be a labor movement.”

Ancel, a labor history professor and life-long union activist, has done dozens of presentations at various IBEW conferences, prompting the Local 1245 Executive Board to invite her to come deliver one of her famous “history lessons” to our Advisory Council.

“The wonderful historian Howard Zinn said … If you don’t know history, it’s as if you were born yesterday. And if you were born yesterday, any leader can tell you anything, and you have no way of checking it out,” Ancel said. “Our labor history is a treasure chest of lessons. It’s our experience as working people. If we don’t know it, we’re bound to fall for every kind of craziness. We have to learn from history so we don’t repeat the mistakes of the past.”

Ancel went on to explain how unions have always organized “in spurts” and that times of great inequality tend to lead to periods of robust union growth. Her history lesson focused on how organized labor has evolved over the decades, and continues to grow and change as the workforce grows and changes.

“Labor has repeatedly reinvented itself and adopted new organizing strategies and tactics in response to changes in the organization of the economy,” she pointed out. “Innovation usually does not come from the top down. It comes from the bottom up.”

Ancel’s history lesson started at the founding of our country, when most all labor was slave labor and indentured servitude.

“Our history is grounded in the labor of slaves and servants, and has been marked by the continuous struggle of the worker against the lash, to be treated as a human being rather than a commodity, a thing,” Ancel noted. “Slavery and servitude set the bar very low and left their imprint on labor-management relations.”

She recounted the long and difficult struggle for labor rights, and pointed out that 200 years ago, American courts ruled that any effort by workers to come together for workplace rights or wage increases was considered a “criminal conspiracy.”

“For most of our history, unions have operated without protection of law — and often in violation of it,” Ancel said. “Facing the combined power of government and business has been the norm for American workers.”

She also pointed out how for centuries, race, class and immigration statuses have always been used by the rich and powerful to pit the working class against one another, an issue that still rings true today. In fact, nearly every lesson from Ancel’s history tutorial had the same conclusion – none of the problems we have as a working class are new or unique. We’ve been through it all before, and if we learn from our history, we can continue to conquer every hurdle that comes before us.

Ancel spoke for nearly two hours, but says that she “barely scratched the surface” of labor’s full history. She concluded her presentation by encouraging everyone to take a labor history class, read a book or watch a historical labor movie; anything we can do to keep labor history and education alive will inevitably help us to grow and strengthen our union and the Labor Movement.

For more lessons from Professor Ancel, check out archived editions of her radio show, “Heartland Labor Forum” http://cas.umkc.edu/labor-ed/shows.htm.
A Small Price to Pay

PART ONE

Submitted by an active IBEW 1245 member, whose name is being withheld to protect medical privacy

Sometimes life has a funny way of teaching you perspective. I had just returned from three days of debauchery in Las Vegas, and found a stack of mail sitting on the counter. Buried amongst the Christmas cards was an envelope from Be The Match, the organization that finds marrow matches for those with terminal leukemia. I had been swabbed, and registered, 6 years ago as a very small token of support for our friends, and neighbors, who had lost a 4 month old son to Acute Myelogenous Leukemia.

The letter informed me I might be a potential match, and that I should call their office as soon as I could. I called the next morning, and went through a lengthy interview about my health. Lab tests were set up the next day, and there was lots of blood drawn to analyze. I had long forgotten about the possibility of ever being a match. Somewhere I had been told a high rate of those who would be donors were notified shortly after being swabbed. That, along with my advancing age, led me to think this day would not ever happen.

About a week later, I received a call telling me the match was certain. I was also told that for various reasons, 30% of the people who got to this point decided not to follow through with the procedure. The woman really wanted me to be aware of the very remote chance of side affects, as well as to hear if I was absolutely committed to following through with what was ahead. In my mind, it wasn't a tough decision. The opportunity to save another person's life was a once in a lifetime chance.

A complete physical was set up soon after, with more blood drawn. I was told the recipient of my marrow was a 28 year old male in the early stages of Non Hodgkins Lymphoma. His age, and the early diagnosis, will give him an excellent chance to beat this disease. The woman with Be The Match also shared that, assuming he makes a full recovery and if both parties consent, a meeting can be arranged. I’m not sure how I feel about that possibility.

The actual procedure is scheduled on January 29. Today I began a daily injection of Filgrastim. It is designed to increase my body's production of hematopoietic stem cells. Those are what will be harvested from my blood on the 29th.

I will share my experience after the procedure. My hope is that those who read about my opportunity may consider getting swabbed. It takes about 10 seconds. A small price to pay for the chance to save a life.

PART TWO

Game time. The day is finally here. The 4 days of Filgrastim injections have offered very little in the way of side effects. Some minor lower back pain was really the only issue that the Tylenol didn’t conquer. I arrive at UC Davis Medical Center at 7AM. The nurse had warned me of the two hours of yet more paperwork and blood testing that had to occur before the actual procedure could begin. At 8:55, I was officially ready and finally hooked up to an apheresis machine.

The apheresis machine is a medical miracle. It is used to harvest any number of components from a donor's blood, or to separate substance(s) from a patient's blood. In my case, my blood will run through the machine repeatedly, and stem cells will be harvested into a bag. The patient's doctor has asked for 28 CCs. The machine runs at a specified speed, and the amount requested is based quite simply on the patient's weight. In this case, an adult male is the recipient, so the process will take most of the day.

At 3:15PM, the bag of stem cells reached the 28 CCs that were requested. Other than having a very sore right arm (this is where the needle removing the blood from my body was located, so I couldn't move that arm), I felt no pain. 6+ hours in a hospital bed wasn't the most exciting way to spend a day, but the euphoria of seeing the product that would soon be on its way to the airport far outweighed both those minor drawbacks. A courier was scheduled to pick up the stem cells by 5:00PM, and headed directly to Sacramento Airport. The recipient would be fed the stem cells immediately upon their arrival through an IV. I was told that he had been given heavy doses of chemotherapy in preparation for my donation.

My wife drove me home from the hospital. I felt good physically, but apparently it was just the adrenaline that was keeping me going. After the 30 minute drive home, I was about as tired as I had ever been in my life. Usually a light sleeper, I slept a solid 10 hours that night. I woke up with no pain or side effects, and was able to go to work with no problems the entire day.

Some of the people I’ve shared my experience with are shocked to hear how easy it sounded. The method by which I donated is much more common today than the process by which a doctor extracts liquid marrow from a donor’s pelvic bone. Both methods are typically done with the donor being released the same day from the hospital. Be The Match lists the chance of ever being a match at 1 in 500. I consider myself very lucky.

Learn more and sign up at www.BeTheMatch.org
The Health and Safety committee is conducting OSHA 300 requests of 30 employers currently affiliated with IBEW 1245. The purpose of the request is to identify and compile a list of all serious incidents which occurred in 2014, research the incidents, and report them to the IBEW International Organization.

Dan Boschee, Frontier Communications

Frontier is finalizing the effort to install automated external defibrillators at all work locations that are manned from a full-time basis. The new AEDs have the capability to measure the depth of heart compressions and can direct the rescuer to maintain a minimum of 2” chest compressions. The devices also include a special pillow that maintains an open airway. No accidents to report.

Mark Flanders, Sacramento Municipal Utility District

A close call was reported when two conference attendees were overcome by carbon dioxide in their hotel room. When they did not report to the meeting, a co-worker went to check on them and they were found unconscious. EMS was notified and the employees were treated without injury. It was not reported what caused the potentially fatal hazard.

Another close call involved an employee who was dumpster diving when a forkift operator picked up the dumpster. No injury was reported. For some unexplained reason a technician who was opening a pre-packaged rag box found a syringe in the bundle. The company will contact the vendor and launch an inquiry into the incident.

Mike Gomes, Modesto Irrigation District

Linemen are currently testing equipment for changeover to full fall restraint climbing gear. About 50% of the group are not happy with the change, preferring to free climb, however they must be in compliance with state rules that are now in place.

The company prefers to select one uniform FR type. MID is resisting requests to provide flame-resistant jackets. However, the Bendix ruling by OSHA indicates that any PPE required by law (with few exceptions) must be provided free of cost to the employee.

Joe Joaquin, PG&E Gas Operations

Terrance Williams has been appointed as the new Safety Manager for Gas Operations. It was reported that the policy establishing proper excavation covering has been modified to include a certain grade of plywood that has an adequate strength to prevent break-through. Previously, PG&E had required steel coverings only after an injury incident, but new research indicates that plywood of certain grade is now currently acceptable under conditions specified by the safety communication.

Carlos Rodriguez, Utility Tree Service

A crew member who pulled a ligma- nent in his arm on the job was asked by his supervisor to seek medical attention off the job instead of reporting it as an on-the-job injury. The employee was advised by coworkers to disregard the supervisor’s request because a failure to report would result in no record of work injury. The employee reported the injury to his employer.

A tree truck driver failed to stop at a weigh scale resulting in a traffic stop by a CHP officer. The officer reminded him that he must stop at weight scales and let him off with a warning.

AI White, PG&E Restoration

Troubleshoot job assignments will be conducted during the month of March. Seven projects have been planned and each man has to perform three projects as a part of the evaluation.

Peer-to-peer expands

Peer-to-Peer Program Recruitment & Process – The combined peer programs (Hold the Pull, Control the Pressure and Keep the Clearance) now have approximately 150 members serving as safety stewards for the Local 1245 membership. In the past when the numbers were smaller, it was easier to track recruitment, but as knowledge of the program grows through safety presentations, recruitment has grown also.

Our overall goal is to place a safety steward in each work yard. If you know of any person who you think would be a good safety steward, please contact Rich Lane (209-292-9492, rv51@ibew1245.com) or John Kent (707-301-3599, jkl77@ibew1245.com).

Cal-OSHA rewrite

February 1, 2015 was the cutoff date for stakeholders to submit comments to CalOSHA regarding the proposed changes related to the 1910.269 Federal OSHA standard that CalOSHA must adopt (the state regulations must either be identical or provide an equivalent level of protection to workers). The .269 standard was released in April of 2014, however much of the enforcement mechanisms of the standard have been postponed due to lawsuits seeking relief or clarification of the changes. By law, California and all other states have six months to make changes to their programs once the changes are made at the federal level.

It appears CalOSHA plans on bringing over the standard changes directly from the federal standards, which will require some modifications to the current structure. The Federal standards are written specifically for the Electric Power Industry, whereas CalOSHA standards cover the general industry and all who perform electrical work by using a Low Voltage Electrical Safety Orders (LVESO) and High Voltage Electrical Safety Orders (HVSEO). In an effort to meet the time requirements required for adopting a standard as large as this, I can see the state satisfying the requirement first, then assembling advisory committees at a later date to address the standard in the format that CalOSHA is written in. Local 1245 will remain involved in the initial comment period as well as any future advisory committees to make sure the safety of our members is addressed.

Accident reports

SMUD Building Maintenance Mechanic Injured

A UARP building maintenance mechanic was injured while snaking a drain with motorized equipment. We believe his hand was pulled into the drain when his glove became caught. Our building maintenance mechanic was taken to the hospital and underwent hand surgery. He was released from the hospital late yesterday and is resting at home. We’ll share more information with you when we know what went wrong and what we’re doing to fix it. Please review this Safety Alert in your safety meetings and post on your SIRC/Safety bulletin board. (Note: Reported to I/O Form 173 on 2-13-15)

Non-Injury Vehicle Rollover

A tree truck driver was traveling northbound when he crossed the “fog line.” There was approximately five inches of pavement outside of the fog line then a deep ditch. The right front wheel entered the ditch and the Driver attempted to steer out of the ditch by cranking the steering wheel to the right. The truck then came out of the ditch and crossed into the south-bound lane and flopped over on its side. The truck was heavily damaged. The Company took the Crew Foreman and Climber for a medical check, and both were OK with some bruises. The Driver was drug-tested after the accident with negative results. The Driver was given written discipline for unsafe operation of a vehicle and was taken off work for three days. He has returned to work and the Climber returned to work on the day following the accident.

PG&E Lineman Breaks Hand

An apprentice was at the top of the pole in his hooks. When a Lineman began to ascend the pole, the apprentice dropped a grip and the Lineman dropped the hoist for the 40” copper wire. Grip fell 25 feet and struck the Lineman below in right hand, resulting in a broken hand, requiring surgery. The incident occurred in Hat Creek/Westwood, but due to employee residing in San Francisco, the decision was made to drive the employee home to have surgery in San Francisco.

Local by-laws updated

On February 4, the IBEW International Office made several modifications to Local 1245’s bylaws to conform them to pattern guidelines and to bring them into compliance with the IBEW Constitution. The new bylaws are approved and on file at the International Office, and can be found on our website at www.ibew1245.com bylaws.
Redding
January 30, 2015

Congratulations on your service!

35 Years
Front row, from left: Todd Pedersen, Daniel Massey. Back row, from left: Don Hatting, Rena Smoak.

35 Years

30 Years

20 Years
Front row, from left: Janice Ray, Randy Amaral, Christine Sieber.

25 Years
Front row, from left: Jeffrey Forschler, Tina Litts, David Pemberton. Back row, from left: William Neiley, Gary French, Dennis Vasquez.

15 Years
From left: Terry Taylor and Cory Harper.

40 Years
Front row, from left: Norma Caswell, Diane Morgan. Back row, from left: Victoria Tarazon, Business Manager Tom Dalzell, Timothy Miller.

Photos by John Storey
10 Years
Front row, from left: Daniel Garcia, David Curtright. Back row, from left: Randy Lapreille, Thomas March.

5 Years

40 Years
Front row, from left: William Webb, Emmahilda Imperial, and Daniel Freeman. Back row, from left: (Dalzell), (De La Torre).

35 Years

50 Years
Front row, from left: Treasurer Cecelia De La Torre, Business Manager Tom Dalzell, Jay Luchsinger and Business Representative Bob Dean.

Photos by John Storey

Utility Reporter

January 23, 2015

continued on page 30

SERVICE AWARDS

HONOREES

40 Years
Caswell, Norma
Miller, Timothy
Morgan, Diane
Rogers, Britta
Sanders, Barbara
Taranon, Victoria
Villalovos, Joann

45 Years
Cantrell, Lawrence
Claybaugh, Barry
Clevey, Cecil
Crow, Richard
Hatting, Donald
Johnstone, Craig
Lyke, John
Madden, Roy
Massay, Daniel
Petersen, Todd
Rebol, Pat
Smock, Rena
Voldkva, Benjamin
Vance, Thomas
Wagner, Kathleen
Weber,Mark

35 Years
Brooke, William
Combs, Craig
Diaz, Andrew
Forschler, Jeffrey
French, Gary
Johnson, Mark
Litts, Tina
Neley, William
Pemberton, David
Teasley, David
Vazquez, Dennis
Wish, Erinn

25 Years
Breit, William
Combs, Craig
Diaz, Andrew
Forschler, Jeffrey
French, Gary
Johnson, Mark
Litts, Tina
Neley, William
Pemberton, David
Teasley, David
Vazquez, Dennis
Wish, Erinn

15 Years
Brooks, Bobby
Fleming, Chris
Foreman, Todd
Hall, Perry
Harper, Cory
Torres, Lawrence
Warhunfo, Billy
Wish, Erinn

10 Years
Ballard, David
Butler, Chip
Campbell, Coy
Curtright, David
Fish, Matthew
Garcia, Daniel
Gray, Tony
Groves, Terry
Haynes, Elias
Lapreille, Randy
Larsen, Harley II
Lewis, Lee
March, Thomas
Mattioli, Theodore
Mehnert, Andrew
Miles, Wayne
Monka, Richard
Prit, David
Price, Jeffrey
Pratt Jr. Larry
Reed, Kenneth
Rickett, William
Rossie, John
Stone, Kirk
Travis, Christopher
Turner, Robert
White, John
Williams, Jason
Winn, Nathan

5 Years
Basel, Gunnar
Bloom, Curtis
Bohl, Donn
Brownfield, Shawn
Buhl, Jeremy
Bunting, Jason
Bunting, Nathan
Chilton, Phil
Coulter, Richard
Dells, Spencer
Faganello, David
Foely, Brent
Garner, Kevin
Gonzalez, Miguel
Groch, David
Haklin, Donald
Hermoso, Gustavo
Hoffman, Brian
Hutches, Jeffrey
Ibarra, Ryan
Janisse, Murray
Jenise, Kyle
Joree, Ian
Leggeri, Matthew
Lile, Gary
Little, Ed
Lynch, Brian
Nurcutt, Devin
Penn, Ellis
Pierce, Waylon
Redick, Robert
Reid, Justin
Reyes, Rivas, Cristian
Robbins, Todd
Russ, James
Schertz, Christopher
Tutor, Philip
Webber, Kimberly
Wilson, William
Zanni, Kyle
Zanni, Zachary

30 Years
Andrew, Bryon
Baker, Dwayne
Bone, Stanley
Coates, Nicholas
Coleman, Clarissa
Croder, Kim
Daugherthy, Thomas
Davis, Bruce
Dean, Robin
Eli, Peter
Foushee, Robert
Frodickson, Kim
Hafner, Marty
Hamill, Robert
Hood, Edward
Lover, Steve
Medina, Alan
Nalbusio, Tomas
Oehricz, Michael
Peterson, Lonney
Rohland, Roger
Schiff, John
Springer, Michael
Torres, Lawrence
Wahrhunf, Billy
Wish, Erinn

20 Years
Amaral, Randy
Brown, Brian
Fleet, Brad
Miller, Albert
Moore, Brad
New, Dale
Ray, Janice
Shekla, David
Sieber, Christine
Somers, Thomas

10 Years
Front row, from left: Daniel Garcia, David Curtright. Back row, from left: Randy Lapreille, Thomas March.
Congratulations on your service!

HONOREES

50 Years
Lachinger, Jay

45 Years
Chatman Jr., Jules
Mann, Michael

40 Years
Fernandez, Linda
Freeman, Daniel
Guzman, Betty
Imperial, Emmalinda
Lemos, Kathleen
Pascual, Anthony
Torres, Pedro
Webb, William

35 Years
Areola Jr., John
Baker, Ronald
Brown, Jim
Finegan, Paul
Flores, Ralph
Fong, Christine
Fort, Mark
Furukawa, David
Garibaldi, Richard
Gaultney, Kenneth
Kreft, Steve
Jackson, A Jeanine
Laughlin, Susan
Leatherman, Donna
Lowe, Darcy
Lynch, Richard
Margorion, Glen
Martinez, Anna
Matthews Jr, Donald
Mayo, Stephen
Navarro Jr., Oscar
Parsons, Jimmy
Powell, Jerry
Quintana, Ronald
Rea, Jack
Riley, Dennis
Stuart, Robert
Thomas, Tony
Tropp, Gary
Velasquez, Gus
Williams, Nedra
Woodham, Stephanie
Young, Jeffrey

30 Years
Banks, Jack
Barron Jr., Juan
Beaty, Tommy
Bennett, Thomas
Berry, David
Braux, Paris
Cedrana Jr., Catalino
Cook, Kenneth
Crawford, Robert

25 Years
From left: Shawn Rocca, Treasurer Cecelia De La Torre, and David Samaniego.

15 Years
From left: Karri Deans and Antonio Jaramillo.

10 Years

30 Years
Front row, from left: Bruce King, Sofia Valenzuela, Beverley Shirley. Back row, from left: Ken Cook, Danny Lang, Ed Kelling.

5 Years
Front row, from left: Helen Syrovatka, Bethany Gessel, Samantha Glass. Back row, from left: Jesus Solis, Matthew Willard, Terry Brooks, and Donna Tills.

O’Guin, Stefanye
Oreget, Rodolfo
Powell, Dustin
Rhodes, William
Richter, Christopher
Riddle, Matthew
Rivera, Luis
Roberts, Ronald
Rosen, Jason
Shafer, Aaron
Silveira, Joseph
Singh, Amee
Smith, Ronald
Snoodles, Dustin
Ungal, Jason
Walls, Brian
Wese, Troy
Wolfgang, Jason
Yanez Sr, Gregorio
Ybarra, Everardo

5 Years
Aguilar, Karina
Ambriz, Donna
Belasco, Leticia
Bergman, Kenneth
Brooks, Terry
Buhler, James
Couto, Charlie
Delella, Justin
Doss, Tracy
Ferguson, James
Fleming, Joshua
Gesslee, Bethany
Glass, Samantha
Hensley, Jed
Hernandez, Jose
Hugo
Huber, Scott
Huerta, Manuel
Johnson, Alfonso
Kane, Regina
Kern, Jacob
Lopez, Jose
Mason, James
Meun, Matthew
Muldown, Monica
Murray, Kenneth
Orme, Alicia
Palominos, Licio
Phillips, Kevin
Ponce, Francisco
Prado, Benjamin
Pulido, Hector
Puente, Jose
Redd, Thomas
Rivera, Juan
Saunders, Gary
Seibell, Karl
Smith, Jason
Solis Jr, Jesus
Syrovatka, Helen
Taylor, Nicole
Underhill, William
Uschold, Peggy
Valenzuela, Amelia
Vanzant, Eric
Willard, Matthew T
Dev and Dirty Mac were in Mount Shasta City and couldn't get through. The roads north were all closed now. They left the forty-six Plymouth with the Italian kid at the Flying A on the north end of town and took their tramp bags and storm clothes and started up the tracks. When they reached the headwaters of the Sacramento near the public park they could hear the train grinding up the hill. When the whistle blew they hit the bushes and waited. She was long and loaded heavy. The day crew had worked to clear the snow and now she was going north way behind schedule.

Mac being tall and lanky jumped in the car first after throwing his bag on and Dev chunked the other stuff up to him and then, being short and chunky, caught Mac's hand and they were on board and looking to get to Medford and get out on storm before it was over and the trip worthless. The stars were out and a cold wind stirred inside the belly of the beast. Dev went over and drug the door closed that allowed the west wind to turn them to shivers. They went to the uphill end of the car and made comfort out of their clothes and heard the whistle blowing twenty cars ahead. Safe inside the chamber of hope they opted to be confident she would arrive in Medford and not Klamath Falls, but at least she was going north and that's where the money would be.

Mac took the bottle out of his bag and took the first drink of whisky and passed it over and Dev took one. They both lit a camel from Dev's pack and crossed their legs and leaned into their bags.

“Hope that wop takes care of my car, damn it.”

“Oh, he will Mac. Don't worry about it.”

“That car is the best car I ever had.”

“You gave him two bucks to watch it and he'll tell his boss we are linemen and where we're headed and they got plenty of room for it there. We don't get our asses up there and get in on the action the money will all be made and we will have gone through all this for nothing.”

“It ain't gonna' keep me from worryin' about my car.”

“You can buy two more just like it with all the money you're gonna make up there on this storm. It's a big one and it's still comin' in off the coast. Couple weeks of it and we can throw our old money away. We'll be rollin' in the dough.”

“Dough heavy, that's just what we need to make this worth it.”

Dev reached in his duffle bag, the same one he brought home from the Marine Corps, and pulled out the loaf of French bread and the block of sharp cheese. He pulled the big folding knife out of his jeans and cut two big chunks of it and broke large pieces of bread off and handed a set over to Mac. They had another drink of whiskey and ate the meal.

Dev was smacking loudly and eating fast and the lanky Mac was chewing small portions and making his last.

Dev had a face full of it and took the bottle from between Mac's legs and went to turn it up.

“No backwash Dev. I don't want to be swallowing bread crumbs and cheese chunks out of there when I get my next one.”

“I'll be careful but something tells me I could shit in this bottle and you'd still drink out of it.”

Dev was feeling the liquor now and it was just making him hungrier so he made two more cheese and bread rations and started in again. Mac wrapped his in a clean handkerchief from his bag and stuck it inside to eat later.

“Ever time I think about how rough things are, doing something like this all I have to think about is Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima and I feel like I'm sittin' in the Fairmont in Frisco. Stayin' up all night swattin' at every noise in the dark. Them little Japs were sneaky bastards you know. I musta' killed a hundred of um' between those two engagements. I was lucky to never get hit.”

“You're not going to start in on that again are you? I've heard those stories a thousand times Dev.”

“Well somebody's got to talk, all you ever say about being in the Army in Europe was it was tough, and then that's all you say about it. It's good fer' a man to get a little booze in him and talk that stuff out. It's good therapy for a man.”

“I don't think so Dev, better just letting it go and moving on. Give me my bottle and let's see how much extra shit is in there by now.”

They were sleeping tight in the front of the car when the train slowed to pierce the heart of Weed, CA and crept through slowly past the yelping dogs tied in the yards of old black men who worked in the mill, their wives up early every morning making lunch buckets and sending them off to turn cedar, pine and fir into usable products for America.

The fir and cedar made good poles and were sent south from these mighty woods to Rough and Ready Island to Baxter's and to Kopper's in Orsville to be spun into power poles and shipped all over the country to bare the weight of America's electrical needs.

Orders were flying down from the north to the pole yards for shipment and the storm raged on. Several car loads passed by the same woods from which they were logged this night on this same train and would be used by the linemen in Medford and the power company waiting the train's arrival.

They didn't hear his bag hit the floor or hear him grunt when he jumped up in the slow mover and scratch his way inside the one door on the west side they had left open in Mount Shasta. They were asleep now and the whiskey had left them unconcerned and at ease against the raw grip of winter that began to rage again outside the warmth of their winter gear and the haven of the freight car.

They slept on for another hour and he sat next to them quietly watching them sleep and for a moment he thought of waking them to ask how could it be possible to jump a freight and be so damn unlucky to light next to a pair so worthless as the sleeping babes he kept watch over. He took small sips from the last remains of the bottle having slipped it gently out of Dirty Mac's grip and wondered how they would accept his presence after taking the last visible remnants of the whiskey and enjoying it while they slept like children before him. He was reminded of a time when he knew them both in another place. One along the bank of a river in Houston called to a job that did not exist and the other a young ground man under him running the hand line in Tennessee during the workings of Roosevelt's 'New Deal' when all the work that could be provided was created by a brave President during desperate times. He emptied the bottle of the last sip and thought for a second he felt a foreign object, tasting like a small particle of cheese perhaps, passing the roof of his mouth and not being able to head it off with his tongue letting it slip on by and go on down the tube along with the good warmth of the rye. He slid the empty bottle back into the hand of his former young groundman who he notice was beginning to show signs of age in his face and whispered in the night "Ah Mac, last time I saw you, you were a young man."

Then he slid easily over into the other corner and pulled his grip up alongside and took to sleep himself. He reached inside his jean pocket and felt of it, longing sometimes not to have it at all and other times so proud of it he could not wait for the chance to show it to a line hand and tell the story, but it was always reserved for the left pocket of whatever pants he wore and nothing else was allowed in that pocket and it would be that way until he passed it on as it was passed to him. Having made sure it was good for the rest ahead he dozed off, laying on it as not to have it picked from his possession while he slept, for if they woke first he might be subject to some trickery of the likes that might put it in jeopardy.

Mac was loud and obnoxious and it woke him and he delighted in the fact they had not noticed him yet cramped up in the corner covered in his old blanket that

continued on next page
shed the same color tone of the faded car floor. His white hair they might see if they found focus in his direction, but he was not concerned with that for the moment it was all about Dev defending and Mac on the attack.

“You got a lot of nerve drinkin’ the last of it and then claimin’ to be damned you didn’t! Who the hell else would have drank the last of it and never saved his pole buddy not one last swallow.”

“I didn’t do it, I was asleep ‘fore you were. You musta’ spilled it or drank it yourself, but I’ll buy you a damn bottle as soon as this son-a-bitch throws brake in Medford.” Dev threw his thumb toward the front of the train.

“Look! There sleepin’ in the corner Dev, it’s the mangy bum that drank it!” Mac started toward him to show force not knowing who he was but Dev stopped him with a huge hand to the uncoiling long legs of Mac’s.

“That ain’t a mangy bum. That’s Fancy Kirkantile. You know who he is?”

“Yeah, I grunted for him when I first started in Tennessee. But he drank my whisky.”

“You should be so blessed that it was a legend like Fancy that drank that last of your bottle. Let him sleep. He’s old and deserves the rest. Can’t believe he’s still out here and chasin’ storm to boot.”

“What makes him so damn important that he can drink my whisky and get away with sleepin’ right through a good ass whippin’?”

“Well I can tell you need to hear more about the man.”

“I guess so!”

“He came up under Sky Rocket who came up under Henry.”

“And you met the Henry? The first president of the brotherhood.”

“Yeah, see Sky got off a boat in St. Louis and ran into Henry in front of Stoley’s Dance hall early that morning in November of ‘91 and helped run errands and acted as the first sergeant of arms so to speak and then he went out and learned the trade from Henry and was with him when he died on storm in D.C. Helped carry him across the street after he fell and witnessed his death and took up the banner after Henry made him vow and word has it when Sky passed he passed the vow on to Fancy there to carry on the promise. The very trade line so to speak of Henry’s Legacy. He’s a living legend just like Sky Rocket was.”

“Damn. What sort of promise you think Henry passed to Sky that Sky passed to Fancy?”

“Was the promise to organize. Was the promise to carry on the condition and wage makin’ and startin’ locals and being a brother to your brothers.”

Dawn crept up on them now and the snow fell outside the train like blankets of feathers at a chicken slaughter. The wind called its howling name against the cold.

Fancy heard it all and kept still as a cat on prey listening to the conversation. He never wanted it really. He never wanted the bumps and bruises of it, the knocks in the head. Not even to see Sky die and give it to him. Legend maybe, but fool of feathers at a chicken slaughter. The wind called its howling name against the cold.

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him into the hall and gave him the news. He had been lucky with lately and tried to get Shan to utter words after he drug Pep back. All he could do was barely touch down his feet and cry in pain at first. About night until he felt comfortable they would not come hurt him in the night with the morphine. The doctors were beginning to feel better and ordering Jeanie to do this and do that to make sure things stayed in order for the spinner's sake. "For chrissake Jeanie, make the place look good for her letting us stay like this. Mop the floor while she's at work and do her laundry and iron anything she needs." He was driving her crazy and she was feeling the pressure of the whole recuperation process. Jeanie wanted him to be well and working again and missed the good money he was able to make in the past and couldn't accommodate her with now. Pep and her started arguing about it all and she was being impatient and just sat there with a blank look on her face at night while Fancy tried to make him walk better. It just wasn't fast enough for her and she went back to the trailer which was still at the armory and packed her things and left a note on the door she knew Fancy would have to retrieve in the next couple days when she came up missing. She took the car, headed north to Seattle, and went to work as a cocktail waitress on the waterfront. The money was gone and so was Jeanie. She just couldn't see him pulling out of it and didn't want to be tied to him like that. At least they had no children who would have to go through the heart break. Jeanie knew the head scratcher, Jesse, and Kenny would not send money up from down south forever. By the time she had reached Grants Pass she was convinced she was doing the right thing. She needed to be here helping me with Shan and cleaning the house while Brenda's teaching school. Fancy. Go get her and see if she's coming today. What the hell is the matter with her anyhow?" Fancy backed up away from the door with the note and swallowed hard when he read, "I'm moving on Pep. This is just not going to work for me. So Long, Jean.

"He may walk a little someday but she will never do anything but make those God awful noises and that's it. We're not running a hotel here; we've done all we can do for both of them. They have to leave, we need the room." She walked away shutting her cranky ass high over the white polished shoes that squealed her exit on the waxed dark brown floor, nose in the air as if to be sniffing out more prey to hamstring like a pack of hyenas on the loose in a sheep farm. Fancy scratched his long gray hair and flipped it over and over in his front left trouser pocket with his hand.

Fancy went to the house of the spinner and explained the whole dirty mess to her and she agreed to take them in. The upstairs would not do and with spring coming on and the weather about to turn unbearable enough Fancy took to enclosing the big back porch that flattened out into the yard. He went to the armory where all the linemen and their families had stayed during the storm and got two nice army cots and mattresses complete with pillows and lots of wool blankets. There was no way to have Pep go back to his trailer. He would be too hard to handle in and out of the little thing. Fancy and Jeanie agreed this would be best. During the day while Fancy worked Jeanie stayed on the porch with Pep and Shan and served dinner for the spinner whose name was Brenda and when she and Fancy got home the dinner was hot and ready for everyone to eat. Pep was beginning to feel better and ordering Jeanie to do this and do that to make sure things stayed in order for the spinner's sake. "For chrissake Jeanie, make the place look good for her letting us stay like this. Mop the floor while she's at work and do her laundry and iron anything she needs." He was driving her crazy and she was feeling the pressure of the whole recuperation process. Jeanie wanted him to be well and working again and missed the good money he was able to make in the past and couldn't accommodate her with now. Pep and her starting arguing about it all and she was being impatient and just sat there with a blank look on her face at night while Fancy tried to make him walk better. It just wasn't fast enough for her and she went back to the trailer which was still at the armory and packed her things and left a note on the door she knew Fancy would have to retrieve in the next couple days when she came up missing. She took the car, headed north to Seattle, and went to work as a cocktail waitress on the waterfront. The money was gone and so was Jeanie. She just couldn't see him pulling out of it and didn't want to be tied to him like that. At least they had no children who would have to go through the heart break. Jeanie knew the head scratcher, Jesse, and Kenny would not send money up from down south forever. By the time she had reached Grants Pass she was convinced she was doing the right thing for herself.

It didn't take a couple of days at all. Pep was on Fancy as soon as the back screen door opened and told him Jeanie had not been there all day. "She needs to be here helping me with Shan and cleaning the house while Brenda's teaching school, Fancy. Go get her and see if she's coming today. What the hell is the matter with her anyhow?"

Fancy backed up away from the door with the note and swallowed hard when he read, "I'm moving on Pep. This is just not going to work for me. So Long, Jean." "Well what a ya' know, she escaped. Whatta' ya' goin' ta' do. Some got the moxie, some isn't.

Pep cried and sobbed and Fancy and even Shan sat on the bed with him and petted him like a prize hound while he absorbed the loss. Fancy had been getting the spinner a little drunk in the evening up in her room before banging her and Shan and cooking dinner for the spinner whose name was Brenda and when she and Fancy got home the dinner was hot and ready for everyone to eat. Pep was beginning to feel better and ordering Jeanie to do this and do that to make sure things stayed in order for the spinner's sake. "For chrissake Jeanie, make the place look good for her letting us stay like this. Mop the floor while she's at work and do her laundry and iron anything she needs." He was driving her crazy and she was feeling the pressure of the whole recuperation process. Jeanie wanted him to be well and working again and missed the good money he was able to make in the past and couldn't accommodate her with now. Pep and her starting arguing about it all and she was being impatient and just sat there with a blank look on her face at night while Fancy tried to make him walk better. It just wasn't fast enough for her and she went back to the trailer which was still at the armory and packed her things and left a note on the door she knew Fancy would have to retrieve in the next couple days when she came up missing. She took the car, headed north to Seattle, and went to work as a cocktail waitress on the waterfront. The money was gone and so was Jeanie. She just couldn't see him pulling out of it and didn't want to be tied to him like that. At least they had no children who would have to go through the heart break. Jeanie knew the head scratcher, Jesse, and Kenny would not send money up from down south forever. By the time she had reached Grants Pass she was convinced she was doing the right thing for herself.

Brenda was a closet drinker and no one knew she was having the old lineman, but everywhere in town the news was getting out that odd things were happening there. People on the back porch sleeping in Army cots. Comings and goings all hours night and day. Weird screams coming from upstairs late at night and a bloody soaked man stumbling around in the back yard holding up flash cards to a crazy woman on the porch who was struggling for all she was worth to get out a good AHHH, AHHH. Brenda was having too much fun with Fancy to really care and she thought her helping them out was the proper thing and she would explain it all later to the ones that counted when she got good and ready.

continued in next issue
Lessons from IBEW’s 2015 EWMC Conference

Change Starts With Me

By Michael Musgrove

“I had the honor and privilege to represent Local 1245 as delegate at my first Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) conference, which took place in Atlanta, Georgia, the birthplace of one of our nation’s most influential civil rights and labor leaders — Dr. Martin Luther King — during the weekend we celebrate his life.

Learning from the Past ~ Leading in the Future

The four-day EWMC event began with the RENEW Young Workers Conference on Wednesday, January 16. This year’s slogan was “Learning from the Past ~ Leading in the Future.” RENEW chose that theme because in order to grow and become a stronger union we have to learn from the people that have come before us, and understand we as young workers are not just the future, we are the NOW. With the majority of current union members eligible for retirement in the next 10 years, we must continue to educate our peers and get as many people involved as we can so that we can finally stop the bleeding and make unions strong again in this great country.

RENEW held three workshops and had some great discussions on what we can do going forward and the importance of being a union member. As an IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward, I enjoyed all three of the workshops and feel that each one helped me become a better organizer. The Power Analysis session taught us strategies on targeting the groups that we should be focused on when organizing a work group or fighting for a community cause. We also had sessions on ways to keep groups engaged and connected, along with enhancing public speaking skills and leadership techniques.

Giving Back

Some people think unions are only looking out for their own self-interest, but in fact, giving back is a common theme in the Labor Movement. We aren’t just fighting for ourselves, we fight for the working class and our communities. That’s why, during every conference, EWMC makes it a point to participate in a day of community service. I had the opportunity to work at the local Food Bank with a few other 1245 members, where we helped box over 9,000 pounds of food, amounting to about 7,000 meals ready to go out to the community. EWMC attendees also helped at nearby shelters, volunteered at local schools and helped rebuild parks.

Soaking It All In

On Friday we had an organizing workshop led by our very own staff organizers from IBEW 1245, Jennifer Grey and Jamiin Juarez. They both have a proven track record as experienced and successful organizers, and it was great to walk through a campaign from beginning to the end with them and see the steps that are required when organizing a work group.

In the afternoon, we were given a tour of the Center for Civil and Human Rights and later we visited The King Center. Seeing so much history and just trying to soak it all in was overwhelming. It saddens me to think that some of the fights that Dr King fought are some of the same fights we in the Labor Movement are still fighting today. I know we have made progress, but the fact is, it’s been almost 50 years since Dr King was assassinated, and we’re still struggling with many of the same issues he stood for: equality, civil rights and workers’ rights.

After a couple more workshops on Saturday we closed the conference with a nice banquet honoring a few of the local charities that the EWMC was able to give donations to. Overall I feel blessed to be a part of IBEW, and my EWMC family is definitely one I plan to keep close to my heart.

Change Starts With Me

During this past week I’ve heard from leaders that stood with Dr. King, rising leaders in RENEW and our union’s current leader, IBEW International President Hill. I also got to walk the same streets that the great Dr Martin Luther King did and see all of the accomplishments and strides he made during his lifetime. It’s hard to express the emotions and feelings you have after attending such an amazing and influential conference, but I definitely walked away understanding why people say “It’s like no other conference you’ll ever attend.” I know now that the change starts with me, and I hope at some point of my life I can look back and be proud of the work we have done to make this country strong again.

Michael Musgrove is an organizing steward for IBEW 1245.

“Some people think unions are only looking out for their own self-interest, but in fact, giving back is a common theme in the Labor Movement.”

— Michael Musgrove

CHANGE STARTS WITH ME

Lessons from IBEW’s 2015 EWMC Conference

Lesson 1: Give back

Lesson 2: Learn from the past

Lesson 3: Be proud of the work we have done to make this country strong again.

— Michael Musgrove

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Dalzell receives “Organizing for Young Workers” award

I BEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell received the coveted “Organizing for Young Workers” Award at the Sacramento Central Labor Council’s annual “Salute to Labor” Awards Dinner on Thursday, March 5. According to the Awards Dinner Program:

Shortly after being elected as IBEW 1245’s chief officer in 2006, Dalzell began to systematically incorporate younger members into the structure of the union, inviting them to become stewards, unit officers and bargaining committee members. With Dalzell at the helm, IBEW 1245 became one of the first local unions in the nation to develop a robust young-worker program in 2009. Dalzell has worked to mobilize this new generation of union members in their own worksites and communities, and has also provided them with opportunities to work on campaigns in several “battleground” states, including Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida, Alaska, and Maine. Over the years, the young worker program has evolved into a unique, cross-generational group of “organizing stewards” — a trained and knowledgeable army of energetic member-activists and leaders who are well versed in discussing why unions matter and how they can make a difference in the lives of working families.

Dalzell’s experience working with the United Farm Workers in the 1970s taught him that organizing is about meeting people where they are, and as a result, IBEW 1245 was one of the first unions to utilize social media as a valuable organizing tool. In 2010, Dalzell pioneered the creation of the “Shame on NV Energy” Facebook page, which quickly drew in 50,000 Facebook fans, making it the largest political organizing page in the state of Nevada at that time.
WHAT’S THE UNION GOOD FOR?

WHAT DID THE UNION EVER DO FOR ME? IT’S JUST A WASTE OF MONEY!

CHUH?

...OH, YEH...

SPEAKING OF MONEY...

I GUESS YOU’RE TURNING DOWN THE WAGE INCREASE THE UNION NEGOTIATED.

I DESERVED THAT INCREASE!

SURE YOU DID. BUT THE BOSS HAS A TIGHT FIST AND IT TAKES A STRONG UNION TO PRY IT LOOSE!

BET I’D HAVE GOTTEN THAT RAISE EVEN WITHOUT THE UNION!

MAYBE, BUT IF YOUR RAISE ISN’T PROTECTED BY A UNION CONTRACT, THE BOSS CAN ALSO TAKE IT AWAY Whenever HE WANTS.

REMEMBER WHEN THE UNION GOT IMPROVEMENTS IN OVERTIME PAY?

I’D NEVER HAVE MADE FOREMAN WITHOUT THE BIDDING RIGHTS THE UNION NEGOTIATED.

I WOULD HAVE BEEN DEMOTED, BUT THE UNION GRIEVED IT.

IT’S ALL RIGHT HERE IN THE UNION CONTRACT.

MY PENSION.

MY HEALTH COVERAGE.

MY LIGHT DUTY.

MY EQUITY ADJUSTMENT.

OUR UNION!

IT’S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE, JUST SIMPLE MATH. UNION WORKERS ON AVERAGE MAKE 27% MORE THAN THEIR NON-UNION COUNTERPARTS.

HEY!

WHERE YOU GUYS GOING?

OUR UNION MEETING—WANT TO COME ALONG?

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