Inside:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gas Rodeo</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalzell: Why we survive</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalzell, Earley, Biden</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victory at APPA Rodeo</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Voltage Demo</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Construction</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Member Experience</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charity Bowl</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reno Upgrade</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defending Nevada Workers</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hold the Pull</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay Shoots</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG&amp;E Bargaining</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Sector</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Matters</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fútbol!</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Trimmers</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fight for $15</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirees</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Mike Davis</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Bridges Lives!</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Champions</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Opening ceremony at the Reno Apprentice Lineman Rodeo. See pages 24-25.
Why we survive

In my past two columns, I laid out the challenges our union faces as the power sector and the political climate evolve. But this time I want to take a minute to talk about why we're surviving these challenges, and why we've survived so many in the past. In a word — you.

Our union is only as strong as our members. It's your dedication and support that makes it possible for us to navigate and even thrive in extremely challenging environments. Not every union is like this — there are some whose members are not interested in the mission, or who very rarely participate.

You reminded me how different we are seven times over the past month. On June 2nd in Reno, we held an NV Energy shop steward meeting full of engaged, hands-on individuals. NV Energy has been a tough environment to operate in over the past several years, and as I listened to our stewards there, I was struck by how hard they had worked and how much they had delivered. We've made real strides with the new management, our retirees' health benefits are secure and our members there have strong allies in their corner as we move forward.

The next day I was at the union hall in Vacaville for our Union New Member Experience — a first-of-its-kind program that brought together 54 PG&E workers to immerse them in what IBEW 1245 is all about. The idea of a new member ori- entation came from two linemen – Andrew West and Luis Sotomayor — who helped organize and lead the event. The energy of the new members, many of whom were young people, was impossi- ble to miss. They left the meeting ener- gized, completely in command of our goals and mission, and integrated into 1245's social fabric in a way they wouldn't have been otherwise. I left more encouraged than I have ever been about the future of our union.

On June 4th I was back in Vacaville for a public and private sector shop steward meeting — and more than 100 people showed up. As we moved through the meeting's business I had the same feeling I had in Nevada just two days ago — I was impressed by their dedication and command of the contract, and confident that our members had strong advocates who could support them through grievances and secure the best outcome possible.

On June 8th we held our monthly TeleTownHall for PG&E shop stewards. This technology that we've been using for about a year, and it allows us to hold virtual meetings to update stew- ards on what we're working on and let them ask any questions they like. It was a beautiful June evening, and I was expecting a low turnout — but over 250 stewards joined in. The call lasted about an hour. Our senior staff updated everyone on hot-button issues, and we were able to provide answers to a number of important questions from the clerical, gas and line sides.

The next day we held another TeleTownHall — but this one was with the stewards of the seven IBEW locals who have members at Berkshire Hathaway Energy. After Berkshire bought NV Energy, we formed a coordi- nating council with these locals so we can share information, strategize and support each other as each local goes to the bargaining table. 175 stewards joined the call from Illinois, Iowa, Calgary, Utah, Wyoming, Oregon, and Nevada. Understanding their experi- ences is helping us plan for our own

For art, please use:

Art Freitas
Anna Bayless-Martinez

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Overall, in just the past few weeks, I've witnessed hundreds of our members stepping up to make a stronger union, to exercise control over their working lives, and to improve the lot of their fellow members. And I've also seen our negotiating committees around the union sitting down, working through difficult issues and finding creative ways to make improvements.

I'm inspired by this — it tells me we have what it takes to continue to thrive, and to move forward. And that is what we are headed our way. The power is in our hands — and we're using it every single day.

Freitas, Bayless-Martinez take on new roles for 1245

IBEW 1245 Vice President Art Freitas has been sworn in as the new President of the union. (See page 34) He replaces Michael Davis, who recently resigned the position after serving for 11 years. Executive Board member Anna Bayless-Martinez replaces Freitas in the position of Vice President.

The Central-Area Executive Board seat vacated by Bayless-Martinez is now open.

Any member interested in filling the position should contact Recording Secretary Chris Habecker at CAHF@ibew1245.com. Congratulations Art and Anna on your new positions!
Great expectations for new International President

IBEW Local 1245 is expecting great things from Lonnie Stephenson, the man who becomes the new International President of the IBEW on June 1. Stephenson is “out of the tools” and most recently has been the International Vice President for IBEW’s 6th District, serving the Great Lakes states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. He became very familiar with the work of IBEW 1245 when our local sent organizers into his district three times to help defend unions against the anti-labor policies of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

“Lonnie is a big believer in training, organizing, and unions helping each other,” said IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. Stephenson also has been a “leading voice” for the IBEW’s Utility Coordinating Council, which has brought together several local utility unions to present a united front to Berkshire Hathaway. That company, headed by Warren Buffett, took over IBEW 1245 when it purchased Greenlee Power, a company known for its positive labor-management relations.

IBEW 1245 Organizer Jammí Juarez, one of the Local 1245 members who assisted the campaign in Wisconsin, called Stephenson an amazing person, one who believes in trade unionism, who “comes out of the tools and is true to the cause.”

“In Wisconsin, all three times we were there he made it a point to come out and express his appreciation for us being in his district and helping his members,” said Juarez.

Along with IBEW 1245 member Casey Salkauskas, Juarez returned to Stephenson’s district in 2013 to assist the organizing campaign at Greenlee tools in Rockford, Ill. Stephenson not only took time to come out and meet with the visiting organizers, Juarez said, “he spent a day with us on a house blitz,” working to convince Greenlee workers to vote for IBEW representation. The IBEW won that election by a better than 2-1 margin.

“The membership respects him and loves him. I’m very excited he’s been appointed International President—he’s going to do a phenomenal job,” Juarez said.

Stephenson succeeds Ed Hill, another strong supporter of IBEW Local 1245, who is retiring after 15 years of distinguished service as the union’s top officer.

President Ed Hill delivered for 1245

Edwin Hill, who resigned in June as International President of the IBEW, took a keen interest in our local and visited our members at several job sites during a visit in 2011.

“Any time we’ve asked for something, Ed Hill has done it,” said Business Manager Tom Dalzell. “We could not have asked for a better friend. He held up our local as a model and offered encouragement every chance he got.”

Hill was a second-generation journeyman electrician from Pennsylvania, rose within the Third District of the IBEW, and was appointed international secretary in 1997. Hill assumed the newly-created position of secretary-treasurer one year later, and became international president in 2001.

Although he made sure that IBEW’s interests were represented in the halls of power in Washington DC, he never lost sight of the union’s true source of strength. Upon his appointment as president in 2001 he said: “I know that any power we wield comes from our strength in numbers and our solidarity as working people.”

IBEW 1245 is deeply grateful to President Hill for his years of service and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Unit meeting changes

Unit 2211, Oakland, has a new meeting location: Rooster’s Roadhouse, 1700 Clement Ave, Alameda, CA. Meetings will continue to be on the third Thursday of each month, starting at 4:00 p.m.


Unit 4017, City of Gridley, has a new meeting date beginning in May: the first Tuesday of the month.

IBEW 1245 showed its deep bench at the Power Lineworkers Rodeo when multiple teams and apprentices from Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Modesto Irrigation District, and the City of Roseville took top awards. IBEW 1245 was also represented by teams from Turlock Irrigation District, City of Lodi, and City of Healdsburg.

The rodeo, held on May 16, was sponsored by the American Public Power Association and hosted by SMUD in Sacramento. Fifty-eight teams and 86 apprentices from not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities across the nation participated.

Taking first place overall in the Journeyman competition was the Modesto Irrigation District team of Jimmy Boere, Sean Coulson, Brian Szuggar and Matt McCurdy. All but Szuggar were on the MID team that placed fourth in last year’s rodeo, showing that persistence pays off. This year’s team, in addition to first overall, showed consistent excellence by taking third place in 4kV crossarm changeout, 12kV deadend insulator replacement, and deadend transfer.

First place overall in the Apprentice competition went to William Baker, a 3-year IBEW 1245 member at Roseville Electric (City of Roseville). Along the way to this impressive victory, Baker also took second place in the written test.

The rodeo consists of competitive events demonstrating lineworker skills and safe work practices. There are two categories of competition: journeyman and apprentice. The events are judged on safety, work practices, neatness, ability, equipment handling, and timely event completion. All safety rules established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the APPA Safety Manual were observed during events.

Close behind the MID journeymen’s overall first place finish, the SMUD team of Cayleb Bowman, Matthew Wilson and Todd Prangley took third place overall. Along the way, they racked up first place finishes in the written test.
in four events: hurtman rescue, 4kV crossarm change-out, obstacle course, and deadend transfer. In fact, the only event in which they didn't place first was the 12kV deadend insulator replacement.

The SMUD journeyman team of Alman Kerste, Richard Hall and Breck Smith also got on the awards wagon with a fifth-place finish in the overall competition, while nabbing a second-place finish in the obstacle course event.

First-place apprentice Baker got a run for his money from several other IBEW 1245 apprentices. Gregory Frizzell, SMUD, placed fourth overall while capturing second in the double deadend bell. Bryan Herdal, SMUD, took first in the hurtman rescue and second in the single-phase conductor tie-in. Michael McGee, also of SMUD, took third in the double deadend bell.

Tyler Dewitt, SMUD, took first in the single-phase conductor tie-in and third in the crossarm relocation. As a matter of fact, IBEW 1245 apprentices took all three of the top awards in the crossarm relocation: Garrett Mcghehey of SMUD took first while Kyle Giesser of Roseville Electric took second.

The rodeo was sponsored by APPA, and was co-hosted by SMUD and IBEW 1245.

Families enjoyed watching their loved ones demonstrate their extraordinary abilities. Dennis Seyfer, Senior Assistant Business Manager who oversees IBEW 1245’s public sector work, led a team of 16 Organizing Stewards/volunteers who donated their Saturday to facilitate the IBEW 1245-sponsored lunch for the 1,000 participants, judges and volunteers.

Congratulations to the winners, and to all IBEW 1245 journeymen and apprentices who represented their union in this year’s APPA rodeo. You done us proud!

See more photos online at: http://bit.ly/1JA55ru
On April 30 the Keep the Clearance peer initiative had their 3rd annual safety stewards conference at the Vacaville union hall. There were 52 participants, including 8 prospective safety stewards. The companies represented were Davey Tree Service, Trees Inc., Utility Tree Service, City of Lompoc, Family Tree and Synergy Tree. The summit agenda included a review of the previous and current year’s activities which included visits to and recruitment of Family Tree Service workers, a review of the tree trimmer intervention program, the IBEW/PG&E/Tree Supervision Roundtable and a survey breakout on worksite lighting and safety. The new Close Call hazard recognition program was reviewed in the afternoon.

The highlight of the summit was a high voltage demonstration performed by Truckee Donner PUD linemen Bob Springer and Ed Adkins. Many tree trimmers had never witnessed the true power of high voltage and they were able to see close up the danger and learn the principles behind how high voltage contacts occur and the potential to injure and kill workers. The demonstration board was energized to 7200 volts and the set up simulated a common high voltage circuit with real equipment mounted on a portable trailer. Training also involved other dangers from being trapped in a car with wires down to protecting children from electrical hazards around the home. The demonstration was well rounded, interesting and fun.

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A high-voltage demo (7,200 volts) was conducted outside.
Una demostración de alta tensión (7200 voltios) se llevó a cabo al aire libre.
**Outside Construction**

**Aiming for PLA on CalTrain project**

*By Ralph Armstrong*

The work picture remains steady with various projects taking place all over California and Nevada. We continue in our efforts to finalize and secure a Project Labor Agreement for the CalTrain project, which is the 54-mile electrification of CalTrain through San Francisco, San Mateo and San Jose. This PLA model will most likely be used for the remainder of the high speed rail project, which will also include several other work projects that will require the relocation or modifications to existing facilities.

In the month of May, I have logged over 5,800 miles while making crew visits and judging Lineman Rodeos. I have also filled in for Mike Cottrell while he was in Executive Board meetings and on vacation. I have visited 35 job sites and substations.

**Unit Meeting Date Change**

Beginning July, the meeting date will change for Unit 4911 (Outside Line/General Membership). The date will change from the second Wednesday of the month to the first Tuesday. Dates for remainder of the year are: July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3, and December 1.

**JATC**

We currently have 319 Outside Line apprentices registered in our JATC program and 1 traveling apprentice in our jurisdiction.

- 60 apprentices are working out of Local 1245
- 232 are working out of Local 47
- 1 is working out of Local 396
- 6 are unemployed

We have graduated 48 apprentices to journeyman lineman and have inden- tured 23 Outside Line apprentices in 2015.

**Apprentice Interviews**

As has been the case over the last couple of months, two more days of interviews were scheduled for the week of June 15. There have been apprentice interviews going on every month since February in an effort to get caught up on the backlog of applications that were accepted during the last open application period, which lasted just 10 days. Anyone who submitted an application and met all the requirements will get an opportunity to interview in the coming months.

**Vote Ratification**

The final inspection agreement we had with Tulsa Inspection Resources was ratified recently by 100% of the members who voted. This was the final group and the agreement they work under is the Gas Inspector Agreement. The agreement was for five years. The agreement was for wages only, which included wage increases based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all Urban Wage Earners in the San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose area. This is an annual average with April’s posting used for the increase. There is also a 1% minimum and 3% maximum on these increases. No other changes were made to the agreement. Increases for these members for June 1, 2015 based on this formula were 2.4%.

**Pay Increases**

Over 90% of the Outside Line construction agreements expired on May 31. We have been working diligently to get all expiring contracts ratified or extended. The largest of the agreements are the California Outside Line Construction Agreement and our Inspection Agreements, outlined above. On June 1 anyone working under these agreements should have seen an increase in pay.

The Outside Line Agreement was a two-year extension of the existing agreement that included an across the board wage increase of 2% plus a new HRA account. The contactors began paying $.50 an hour to the new HRA account for every hour worked. This $.50 an hour coupled with the 2% wage increase has about a 3.5% value for 2015.

Beginning January of 2016, Lineco will also have a general increase of $2.5 an hour that the contractors will also pick up, and on June 1, 2016 there will be a general increase of 3% for all workers working under this agreement.

**Postings**

With the construction industry it is important to work with the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) to make sure all increases are filed to accurately reflect these wage increases in the prevailing wage postings. These postings are only updated twice a year and are an important part of making sure on Public Works projects that the correct wage rates are paid. The second posting is the Federal Davis-Bacon Posting which needs to be updated as well.

In addition to the prevailing wage and Davis-Bacon posting the IBEW International Office requires us to update their data base on every agreement when it is ratified. A lot of work has gone into getting this information updated and correct.

**Organizing**

In the month of May we signed the following Contractors to the California Outside Line Construction Agreement:

- D.C. Electric Group, Inc.
- Stoles Tri-Services
- J. Cloud, Inc.

**Injured Workers Fund**

The balance of the fund as of April 30, 2015 was $785,079.98. In the month of May the fund paid out one claim for disability.

**Training and Special Events**

- First Aid & CPR is the 2nd Saturday of every month at JATC Riverside and Sacramento facility.
- International Lineman’s Rodeo, Kansas – Oct. 17 – sign-up at ibew1245.com

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**DISPATCH**

As of May 29, 2015

**Outside of Work Books**

**BOOK #**

- L-1: 13
- L-2: 34
- L-3: 0
- L-4: 22
- GM-1: 29
- GM-2: 27
- GM-3: 182
- ES-1: 8
- ES-2: 11
- ES-3: 19

**May 2015**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Fabricator Tech</td>
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“Traffic is a big issue for us. We’re always in the roadways,” said Jayson Visinoni, the other part of the North Valley Team #2. The absence of traffic on the rodeo grounds allowed the competitors to focus a little more closely on the tasks at hand.

The rodeo featured entertainment for the whole family. Besides all the competitive action for the teams, there was face-painting and rock-climbing for the kids and a barbecue lunch for all.

Several members of the Power Pathways training program were on hand to observe the competition. Business Rep. Lou Mennel, who helped organize the event and served as a judge, said the local rodeo will help prepare IBEW 1245 members for the national competition in Colorado Springs.

Congratulations to all the gas workers for your competitive spirit at the rodeo!

G

as crews sent the dirt flying in a spirited competition to see which PG&E employees will represent IBEW 1245 at the National Gas Rodeo in Colorado Springs this August.

The First Annual IBEW-PG&E rodeo, held May 30 in Livermore, featured 10 two-person teams and 6 four-person teams competing in four events: digging, meter building, pipe cutting, and service run. General Construction crews from around the PG&E system responded to the opportunity to show how proficient—and how fast—they are.

Placing first in the four-person competition was the team performing under the name Los Jefes: Miguel Loza, Adam Kotko, Sam Barraza, and Eman. Placing first in the two-person competition was the Potrero-1 team of Junior Umaleav, Marcus Pineda and Tahmal Fleming (alternate).

Shaun Mahanay, part of the North Valley Team #2, called the events a little more fast-paced than what you’d ordinarily find on the job. “Out in the field it’s a competitive spirit,” he noted.

At the rodeo, some of the typical job-site hazards are not a factor—like cars and trucks.

“The absence of traffic on the rodeo grounds allowed the competitors to focus a little more closely on the tasks at hand. The rodeo featured entertainment for the whole family. Besides all the competitive action for the teams, there was face-painting and rock-climbing for the kids and a barbecue lunch for all.”

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Congratulations to all the gas workers for your competitive spirit at the rodeo!
Digging up a storm: the North Valley #2 team of Shaun Mahanay and Jayson Visinoni.

Sarah Defenbaugh and Marcus Barbosa launch themselves into the pipe cut event.

Wild Hogs make the dirt fly.

Face painting was a special part of the day for these guys.

Let's break for lunch!

IBEW Local 1245 and family members promoting the union’s peer safety program. Back row, from left: Angela Robertson, Trevor Robertson, and Keith Hopp; front row, from left: Ernie Pena, Makaila Robertson, Roy Cabral, and Matt Davis.

Kids got a chance to test their skills, safely, in the rock climb.
When you think of Union, what three words come to mind?

That was the question that opened the Union New Member Experience (UNME), a new program launched on June 4 at Weakley Hall to introduce new members to IBEW 1245.

In their responses to this opening question, the new members showed they'd already given the matter some thought. They mentioned protection, job security, representation, and equality. They pointed to strength-in-numbers, the power of collective bargaining. Others mentioned "brotherhood and sisterhood."

This pilot program brought together 54 PG&E workers hired in early 2014 to immerse them for a few hours in what IBEW 1245 is all about. They met union leaders and stewards. They learned a bit of IBEW history. And they found out that they themselves are in fact the union.

"We need to have the union understood by our newer, younger members, because the union is a way for you to exercise control over your working lives," said Business Manager Dalzell at the top of the meeting. "We really believed the best way to make that happen is not just New members get a close look at what it means to belong to IBEW 1245

us sitting in our offices here in Vacaville making decisions, but getting ideas and decisions coming up from you, the members."

He noted that the idea for an in-depth orientation for new members did not come from the old hands on staff, but was hatched at a unit meeting by journeymen linemen Andrew West and Luis Sotomayor, both of whom were in attendance. West, who is a shop steward, took the floor to explain some of the ways the contract protects the rights of members.

"Sometimes supervisors will be doing shady things, or sometimes they’re just mistaken and not doing things correctly. Sometimes it comes even from higher levels of management that see an opportunity to work around the contract or subvert it in some way," he said.

West told the new members that shop stewards are ordinary workers, just like them, but they’ve been trained to monitor working conditions to make sure that management follows the union contract. If management violates the contract—by not paying proper wages or not following time-off provisions, for example—members can bring it to the attention of their shop steward, who investigates and starts the grievance procedure rolling, when necessary.

The new members included many employees from PG&E Call Centers. Some of their issues were addressed specifically by IBEW 1245 Staff Attorney Jenny Marston, whose responsibilities include making sure that the rights of Clerical members are enforced.

"Since the Clerical were organized into Local 1245 in 1952, our organizing principles have been the same—living wages, job protections driven by fairness (seniority), and pensions. We are the standard bearer in the call center industry and we will continue to do that," Marston said.

Each member in attendance received a hard copy of their contracts. IBEW 1245 Business Representative Anthony Brown showed them how to access the contract on the IBEW 1245 website, and then divided the members into two groups to address specific questions on the Physical and Clerical contracts.

The PG&E bargaining committee—which was in the hall preparing for contract negotiations—joined the group for a while. Dalzell noted the powerful cross section of job classifications, geography, youth and experience on the committee, and he emphasized the important role this committee has.

"The payroll for the bargaining unit is $1 billion. Your bargaining committee is moving as much money as they can from one side of the table to the other side—your side," said Dalzell, who heads the committee.

Participants in first-ever Union New Member Experience gathering at Weakley Hall.

Senior Assistant Business Manager Bob Dean discusses how to access the PG&E contract and other key documents on www.ibew1245.com

Staff Attorney Jenny Marston, who coordinates representation of Clerical members, speaks about Call Center issues.

“The payroll for the bargaining unit is $1 billion. Your bargaining committee is moving as much money as they can from one side of the table to the other side—your side.”

There was lots of information and new members give it some careful thought.
Donna Ambeau, a bargaining committee member and a 47-year member of IBEW 1245 took the microphone to lay it on the line: “You are the union. You should know your contract. Know your rights! If someone says something that is wrong, you should know it! Know what you’re supposed to get. I hear it in the call center all the time—know your rights. This is your contract,” said Ambeau, who called IBEW 1245 “one of the best unions out there.”

IBEW 1245 Communications Director Eric Wolfe led the group through IBEW 1245’s early history with vintage photos, film and interviews with two of the union’s founding members, Ron Weakley and L.L. Mitchell. He underscored that it took 50 years of struggle to win the first system-wide labor agreement at PG&E, an agreement made possible by the power of a workforce united into one union.

Organizing Steward Rachael Hill–Ramirez shared an array of ways to get involved in the union and noted that IBEW 1245 is the only IBEW local union to have an Advisory Council, which provides members an additional forum for making their ideas known. Organizing steward Ivan Pereda shared how to stay informed, saying, “You hold the power to keep our union strong. Keep informed.”

Organizer Jammi Juarez moderated the gathering and offered an overview of the union’s structure. Brief presentations were made by several other members of the union’s staff. Also in attendance were Executive Board member Mike Cottrell, union Vice President Anna Bayless-Martinez, and union President Art Freitas. At the end of the day Freitas swore in the group, a formality that completed their induction into the union.

Members left the meeting energized and committed to share what they learned with co-workers, and to take a selfie with their Shop Steward and post it on the IBEW 1245 Facebook page.

And so concluded the first-ever Union New Member Experience, UNME. We look forward to seeing more new members out at Weakley Hall as future UNME sessions are scheduled.
Sacramento Charity Bowl Raises $3,100 for Families in Need

109 bowlers descended on the Country Club Lanes at this year’s Sacramento Charity Bowl on May 9. Participants raised $3,100 for the Moral Values Program (MVP) of Sacramento. MVP gives to local families who are in need – and one former recipient, 1245 Organizing Steward Nilda Garcia, had this to say about how MVP contributes to the community:

“I was extremely excited to help give back to The Moral Values Program of Sacramento as part of the Sacramento Regional Committee this year for IBEW 1245. You see, before I had a good Union job, I was in need of assistance – I was a single mother of four and had just been laid off.

“One Christmas I heard that the Moral Values Program was hosting a FREE event at my kids’ elementary school. My kids and I were given Christmas gifts, clothing and food. I will never forget the line of families waiting to be helped. This is something I never forgot so when I had the chance to pick a non-profit, I pitched it to the Committee.

“The Organizing Committee did an amazing job putting this event together, selling tickets and donating 36 raffle prizes. We had a total of 109 bowlers and we took up 29 lanes – 75% of the total lanes at the venue! The grand prize, a Dell laptop, was won by Bob Dean, Senior Assistant Business Manager,” Garcia said.

“Congrats to the winning bowling team and to everyone who participated. And thank you to everyone who came out to make the event a success!”

A check is presented by IBEW 1245 to the Moral Values Program.

Sacramento Charity Bowl gets better every year!
Mike Gill works from the upper bucket, and Kasey Johnson from the lower.

Foreman Bob Hettan keeps both eyes on his crew.

The crew at work.

Samson Wilson works from the bucket.
An NV Energy crew upgraded electric lines recently in midtown Reno, replacing 4KV with 25KV. Working the job were Foreman Bob Hettan, Linemen Samson Wilson, Kasey Johnson and Mike Gill, and Apprentice Larry Brook.

Photos by John Storey
Defending workers in Nevada

By Rita Weisshaar

I never really understood the consequences of not voting, or voting for the wrong state legislators. But my recent experience at the state legislature opened my eyes. Our action, or inaction, in the political realm affects the working families of Nevada, as well as our children and grandchildren.

Voter turnout was low in Nevada’s last election, just 45% as compared to the last presidential election in 2012 when it was 80%. The result was to put Republicans in control of both the Nevada Assembly and Senate, giving them the votes to easily pass many bills. Some legislators came prepared to attack the middle class families of Nevada—our wages, benefits and retirement. There were attacks on public employees’ pensions and collective bargaining rights, and also on schools.

One bill would give school districts and the higher education system a shorter time frame to raise funds to build and repair schools. It would also eliminate prevailing wages to be paid on construction and repair projects. Those for the bill were given unlimited time to give their testimony. Those opposed were given 3 minutes only, and many were not allowed to speak at all. This bill was ramrodded through both houses of the legislature. After the speakers were done, we marched over to Governor Sandoval’s office and used loud chants to urge him to stop these bills. We attracted a lot of attention. You could see people on every floor of the Legislature building peering out the windows and taking photos. At the last rally on April 23, there were 600 or more in attendance in Carson City and an equal number in Las Vegas.

Results

The legislature ended at midnight on June 1. I believe our campaign made an impact and was successful. Of the 35 bills that would impact workers in some way, only 10 passed. One of these was SB 158, which will limit the coverage for industrial insurance claims of occupa-

Dealimg with Warren Buffett: IBEW locals coordinate strategy

Business managers from seven IBEW locals met via teleconference on June 9 to share information and strategy on dealing with Berkshire Hathaway, the company headed by Warren Buffett.

One of the utilities owned by Buffett’s company is NV Energy, where employees are represented by IBEW 1245 in the northern part of Nevada and by IBEW 396 in the south. Five other IBEW locals at various Berkshire Hathaway utilities joined with the two Nevada locals last year to form the Utility Coordinating Council (UCC). The goal: create a united front in dealing with Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway.

IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell said he believed the joint effort by the IBEW locals was achieving results. “We have moved the needle in convincing Berkshire Hathaway there’s a better way to do things,” he said. Dalzell said he believed the joint effort by the IBEW locals was achieving results. “We have moved the needle in convincing Berkshire Hathaway there’s a better way to do things,” he said.

The unions in the Council are Locals 57, 109, 125, 396, 499, 639, and 1245.
Hold the Pull comes of age

A
t its annual meeting on June 11, one thing was very apparent: Hold the Pull has come of age.
IBEW 1245’s peer safety program for lineworkers began in 2009 when Business Manager Tom Dalzell decided the union needed to do more to reduce jobsite injuries and fatalities. In the six years since, IBEW 1245’s Hold the Pull program has challenged members to adopt higher standards of safety awareness, created a system of safety stewards to promote safe work practices, and created a traveling education program that is more in demand today than ever before.

Evidence of the program’s success was the presence at the annual meeting of Julius Mathews, a “lineman’s representative” at IBEW 1547 in Alaska. Mathews spoke about his local’s ongoing effort to create its own peer safety program. Other IBEW locals have also shown interest, raising the possibility of a network of peer safety programs that learn from and reinforce each other’s efforts.

In fact, IBEW 1245’s Hold the Pull is beginning to go international. Brady Hansen of IBEW Local 77 in Seattle attended the June 11 meeting to share his experiences trying to improve line safety in the South American nation of Suriname. This fall, a handful of IBEW 1245 members will join Hansen in a visit there to exchange ideas and information with linemen who work under far different conditions than U.S. linemen.

Dalzell offered a historical overview of how the program initially got off the ground, noting that he simply gave the linemen a mandate to improve safety and that the members themselves took it from there. They succeed beyond anybody’s wildest expectations.

“We’ve had several locals visit to look at the program,” said Business Rep Rich Lane. “We’ve become a model for similar programs.”

Among the other speakers of the day were Fred Aboud, representing members at NV Energy, who spoke about rubber-glove training, and Dane Moore, who discussed current issues at PG&E. Casey Kelly of Liberty Energy is chair of the committee.

With Mike van Egmond serving as moderator for the day, there was widespread participation by the members, including small group activities.

“They’re an active group and they take everything to heart,” said Lane.

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“They’re an active group and they take everything to heart,” said Lane.
From left: PG&E members Ron Jones, Travis Glock, John Marshall, and Josh Ramos at the Hilmar Clay Shoot.

From left: PG&E members Claudia Douglass, Claudell Douglass III, Claudell Douglass, Cameron Douglass (9), Anthony Brown, Eric Wright and W.F. Lewis at the Dunnigan Clay Shoot.

From left: PG&E members Claudia Douglass, Claudell Douglass III, Claudell Douglass, Cameron Douglass (9), Anthony Brown, Eric Wright and W.F. Lewis at the Dunnigan Clay Shoot.

Jeff Colin with his son Colin Wolford who won a rifle at the Dunnigan Clay Shoot.

Called Douglass with daughter, Claudia, who won a rifle at the Dunnigan Clay Shoot.

IBEW 1245 Clay Shoot in Hilmar, Calif. on Saturday, March 28th, 2015.

IBEW Local 332 and Santa Clara Valley Chapter of NECA

Union Electrical Workers since 1912

July – September 2015
IBEW 1245 joined with other IBEW locals from northern California to host two Clay Shoots on March 28. IBEW members gathered in Dunnigan and Hilmar to test their marksmanship and their ability to have fun. Very few failed the fun test. With plenty of eats afterward and raffle prizes galore, the two events provided members, families, and friends a chance to be together under gloriously clear skies. Proceeds from the event, after expenses were paid, totaled $13,316.28 and were donated to The Pathway Home in Yountville.
East Bay
February 6, 2015

SERVICE AWARDS

40 Years
From left: Richard Van Noy, Denyu Tom, and Gene Wong.

35 years
Front row, from left: Ben Hernandez, Dean Wilson, and Al Estes. Back row, from left: Michael Harris, Linda Wilson, and Ron Huey.

30 years

30 years

40 Years
Front row, from left: Josephine Isidro, Dorothy Fortier, and Ella Porep. Back row, from left: Maria Martinez, and Elaine Consiglio.

50 years
From left: Senior Assistant Business Manager Bob Dean, Ronald Robertson, and Business Manager Tom Dalzell.

35 years

35 years
Front row, from left: Scott Luer, (Dalzell), and Steven Lydon.

Photos by John Storey

20 July – September 2015
Congratulations on your service!

**HONOREES**

50 Years
Robertson, Ronald

45 Years
Alvarez, John
Chen, Elaine
Hall, Richard
Lewis, Virginia
Morse, Herb
Padden, Kenneth
Price, Roy
Tyler, Jack

40 Years
Ammann, Harold
Ambrose, David
Covas, Elaine
Coryell, Marguerite
Dew, Steven
Fortune, Dorothy
Hodgkins, Josephine
Mariani, Alice
Monner, Edgar
Perry, Pete
Tom, Dennis
Van Noy, Richard
Whitefield, Mary
Ann
Wilcox, David
Wong, Gene
Yahn, Frank

35 Years
Abney, Pat
Arnold Jr., William
Brown, Shantal
Hart, Sharon
Barton, Sherry
Boulton, Ronald
Cauds, Timothy
Carsi, Michael
Cedergren, Jerry
Clifton, Jerome
Costa, Mary
Gomez, Arturo
Costa, Daniel
Cowassee, Emma
Dea, Gail
Decraene, Frank
Del Real, Joe
Dodson, Ron
Dooling, William
Dorn, Jim
Albon, Frank
Alvarez, Al
Garcia, Ronald
Gomez, Joseph
Habbel-Burten, Diana
Hammer, Richard
Harms, Michael
Harrington, Bong
Hines, Keith
Horn, Mary
Hosack, Joseph
Javel, Comello
James, Phyllis
Jenkins, Patricia
Kimberlin, Anita
Kiyosura, Glenn
Leslie, Randall

Jewton, Patricia
Caven, Scott
Lydon, Stephen
Marzolla, Brian
Miles, John
Mendosa, Fernando
Montgomery, Diana
Nemethova, Cynthia
Olson, Darril
Ortiz, Kon
Phelps, David
Polan, James
Rachita, David
Raml, Lakhwinder
Ray, Karen
Riehle, Neil
Rine, Clifford
Rotanda, Jesse
Rynes, Sherry
Shober, Michael
Smith, Leota
Kennedy, Richard
Set, John
Stage Jr., William
Sullivan, John
Sumborning Jr., Vidal
Tom, Venice
Vane, Jaime
Walker, Stephen
Washington, Melodie
Weber, White, Shery
Wilson, Dean
Wilson, Linda
Wong, Kirk
Wong, Steven
Zimmerman, Edward

30 Years
Anderson, Richard
Baxter, Jeffrey
Bennett, Anthony
Biczko, Steve
Biggs, Frank
Boal, Scotty
Brozumonte, Richard
Byrne, Kenneth
Camer, Edward
Carrasquett, Todd
Chaves, Kathleen
Clark, Thomas
Conley, Kevin
Davis, Winton
Delgadillo, Virginia
Dockery Jr., William
Durham, Vern
England, Kevin
Esteben, Nancy
Farnan, Gregory
Gerhart, Michael
Gomes, Federico
Grunery, Mike
Guth, Joseph
Gutierrez, Donald
Hernes, Rodney
Hime, Mike
Kinsey, Mike
Kipp, Paul
Kopp, Floyd
Lallian, Balbar
Lawrence, John
Leiby, Karl
Martinez, Jose
McAuley, Victor
McDonald, Gunilla
Mitchell, Patrick
Moor, Allie
Moxon, Thomas
Morris, Trudy
Moye, George
Nelson, Toni
Olguin, Benjamin
Pena, Ricardo
Philips, Norman
Ramirez, Cristy
Reyes-Escham, Lauro
Sanchez, Michael
Savel, Michael
Shambaugh, Kenneth
Set, John
Stage Jr., William
Sullivan, John
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Tom, Venice
Vane, Jaime
Walker, Stephen
Washington, Melodie
Weber, White, Shery
Wilson, Dean
Wilson, Linda
Wong, Kirk
Wong, Steven
Zimmerman, Edward

25 Years
Anderson, Richard
Baxter, Jeffrey
Bennett, Anthony
Biczko, Steve
Biggs, Frank
Boal, Scotty
Brozumonte, Richard
Byrne, Kenneth
Camer, Edward
Carrasquett, Todd
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Sullivan, John
Sumborning Jr., Vidal
Tom, Venice
Vane, Jaime
Walker, Stephen
Washington, Melodie
Weber, White, Shery
Wilson, Dean
Wilson, Linda
Wong, Kirk
Wong, Steven
Zimmerman, Edward

10 Years
Alvarez, John
Chen, Elaine
Hall, Richard
Lewis, Virginia
Morse, Herb
Padden, Kenneth
Price, Roy
Tyler, Jack

25 Years
Bennett, Anthony
Biczko, Steve
Biggs, Frank
Boal, Scotty
Brozumonte, Richard
Byrne, Kenneth
Camer, Edward
Carrasquett, Todd
Chaves, Kathleen
Clark, Thomas
Conley, Kevin
Davis, Winton
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Dockery Jr., William
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Hime, Mike
Kinsey, Mike
Kipp, Paul
Kopp, Floyd
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Philips, Norman
Ramirez, Cristy
Reyes-Escham, Lauro
Sanchez, Michael
Savel, Michael
Shambaugh, Kenneth
Set, John
Stage Jr., William
Sullivan, John
Sumborning Jr., Vidal
Tom, Venice
Vane, Jaime
Walker, Stephen
Washington, Melodie
Weber, White, Shery
Wilson, Dean
Wilson, Linda
Wong, Kirk
Wong, Steven
Zimmerman, Edward

5 Years
Alvarez, John
Chen, Elaine
Hall, Richard
Lewis, Virginia
Morse, Herb
Padden, Kenneth
Price, Roy
Tyler, Jack

15 Years
Alvarez, John
Chen, Elaine
Hall, Richard
Lewis, Virginia
Morse, Herb
Padden, Kenneth
Price, Roy
Tyler, Jack

20 Years
Alvarez, John
Chen, Elaine
Hall, Richard
Lewis, Virginia
Morse, Herb
Padden, Kenneth
Price, Roy
Tyler, Jack

5 Years
Alvarez, John
Chen, Elaine
Hall, Richard
Lewis, Virginia
Morse, Herb
Padden, Kenneth
Price, Roy
Tyler, Jack

25 Years
Bennett, Anthony
Biczko, Steve
Biggs, Frank
Boal, Scotty
Brozumonte, Richard
Byrne, Kenneth
Camer, Edward
Carrasquett, Todd
Chaves, Kathleen
Clark, Thomas
Conley, Kevin
Davis, Winton
Delgadillo, Virginia
Dockery Jr., William
Durham, Vern
England, Kevin
Esteben, Nancy
Farnan, Gregory
Gerhart, Michael
Gomes, Federico
Grunery, Mike
Guth, Joseph
Gutierrez, Donald
Hernes, Rodney
Hime, Mike
Kinsey, Mike
Kipp, Paul
Kopp, Floyd
Lallian, Balbar
Lawrence, John
Leiby, Karl
Martinez, Jose
McAuley, Victor
McDonald, Gunilla
Mitchell, Patrick
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Morris, Trudy
Moye, George
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Sanchez, Michael
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Sullivan, John
Sumborning Jr., Vidal
Tom, Venice
Vane, Jaime
Walker, Stephen
Washington, Melodie
Weber, White, Shery
Wilson, Dean
Wilson, Linda
Wong, Kirk
Wong, Steven
Zimmerman, Edward

From left: Daniel Seacrest, Ralph Kenyon, and Jose Perez.


From left: Byron Thomas and Luis Ramirez. Back row, from left: Rivers Pugh and Louis Carpio.

Getting ready to bargain

The IBEW 1245 bargaining committee has been busy preparing an opening proposal for general negotiations with PG&E.

The full committee (Physical, Clerical and Benefits) met together the week of April 6, for four days in May, and on June 3. The full committee was also scheduled to meet June 22-26, as the Utility Reporter was going to press. The Benefits subcommittee met separately on May 5 and 15.

After the company and union have completed and exchanged opening proposals, full-scale negotiations will begin, probably around labor day. When a tentative agreement is reached it will be submitted to all IBEW members at PG&E for a ratification vote. The current agreements—Physical, Clerical, Benefits—term out on Dec. 31.

Recent Letter Agreements

Business Manager Tom Dalzell recently has signed several letter agreements with PG&E on the following topics:

- **LA 15-12**, PG&E Call Centers, covering Unanticipated Vacation threshold, flextime procedures and time off with permission and without pay. Subject to ratification by affected members. Approved.
- **LA 15-10**, PG&E Gas Operations, compliance
- **LA 15-13**, dealing with Electrical Technician classification and line of progression
- **LA 15-08**, updating of Contact Center Overtime Guidelines
- **LA 15-09**, FR Clothing


Mark McCrea hired as business rep

Mark McCrea has been hired as a business representative by Local 1245.

McCrea is a 31-year member of the IBEW. He's been a shop steward for the past 20 years and has worked as a troubleman at PG&E for about the same period of time.

McCrea, who began his new job on April 6, will be working the assignment area previously held by Sonny Hollesen, who has opted to return to work at PG&E. They will work together during a brief transition period.

Welcome aboard, Brother McCrea!
Members of IBEW 1245 ratified a successor Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Lompoc that provides wage increases and other improvements. The vote to approve was 71 to 1. 

Bargaining lasted for approximately 4-1/2 months before agreement was reached. The Lompoc City Council approved the agreement at its April 7 meeting.

Highlights of the agreement include:

• An 8% net increase to all salary ranges by June 11, 2016, which includes 1% COLA retroactive to January 10, 2015, 2% COLA effective June 13, 2015, and 5% (new step “F”) effective June 11, 2016.
• 2% to 10% equity increases and certification pay, in addition to COLAs, for our members employed within six separate classifications. The agreement also provides for “meet and confer” over potential equity enhancements for Fleet Mechanics.
• Enhanced provisions for overtime, holiday, sick leave, and shop steward time-off.

“Local 1245’s success in negotiating this tentative agreement reflects the work of the great employee representatives we had on our negotiating committee, and is also a direct result of the November 2014 Lompoc City Council election,” said 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. “Led by Chief Shop Steward Jaime Tinoco, Local 1245 members at the City of Lompoc walked precincts, set up information booths, and worked tirelessly to educate the electorate that the City needed a Mayor who would protect core City services in the best interest of the citizens. We were proud to support Mayoral candidate Bob Lingl, and he was successful,” Dalzell said.

IBEW 1245’s negotiating committee employee representatives were Jaime Tinoco, Karen Niemi, Theresa Hernandez, Gary Silbaugh, Travis Kalin, John Daniels, Leo Ramirez and Ko Sumarayadi, along with IBEW 1245 Representatives Mark Taylor, Pat Duffy, and Ray Thomas.

One-year pact at Fernley

IBEW 1245 members on June 15 ratified a new one-year agreement with the City of Fernley.

The agreement, which is effective July 1, provides a 4% wage/step increase for employees who have factory production. The increase starts on the anniversary date of each individual.

The agreement also:

• Tightens up language on City moving an employee’s anniversary date. It now can only be changed on promotion which includes at least a 5% wage increase.
• Cleans up and better defines overtime language and what overtime is subject to NV PERS.
• Increases payout for employees achieving training or certifications not required in their Job description.
• Changes probation for new hires from 90 days to 1 year.
• Allows new employees to promote after 90 days (previously it was 1 year).
• Adds new employees to promote after 90 days (previously it was 1 year).
• Improves rest period language.
• Improves upgrade language.
• Allows employees with excess of 500 hours of accrued sick leave to convert some sick leave to vacation.
• District will pay 100% of employee only MDV premium, employees with dependents will contribute a flat $25 per month to cover all their dependents.

Serving on the bargaining committee for IBEW 1245 were Jim Lovercheck, Joanna Villalovos, Lisa Hay, and Patrick “Sean” Norvell, along with Business Rep. Randy Osborn.

Pact approved at LMUD

Members of IBEW 1245 ratified a new agreement with Lassen Municipal Utility District. The District’s Board has approved the agreement.

The five-year agreement provides wage increases of 2.5% on July 1, 2015. In each of the following four years it provides wage increases based on the Consumer Price Index (Urban) plus 1%, up to a maximum of 3%. The agreement increases vacation by 40 hours between years 20 and 25.

In other provisions, the agreement:

• Increases standby pay to $800 per week.
• Improves rest period language.
• Improves upgrade language.
• Allows employees with excess of 500 hours of accrued sick leave to convert some sick leave to vacation.
• District will pay 100% of employee only MDV premium, employees with dependents will contribute a flat $25 per month to cover all their dependents.

Serving on the bargaining committee for IBEW 1245 were Jim Lovercheck, Joanna Villalovos, Lisa Hay, and Patrick “Sean” Norvell, along with Business Rep. Randy Osborn.

Nevada, from page 16

According to Census Bureau data, the middle 60% of the population (the middle class), got 53% of the national income in the late 1960s. Today the middle 60% gets just 45% of the national income. That lost income is going to the rich and the super-rich.

Utility Reporter
Apprentice linemen put on a spectacular show at the NV Energy 2015 Lineman’s Rodeo in Reno on May 30—while raising over $12,000 for charity.

Co-sponsored by IBEW 1245, the rodeo featured apprentices from NV Energy, PG&E and IBEW Outside Line Construction competing in five events: Hurt Man Rescue, Pole Climb, Arrestor Change Out, Knots Around the Clock and a “Mystery Event.”

Friends and families were on hand to watch the appren-
cases apprentices

tices strut their stuff, and there was entertainment for the little tykes, too—including bucket rides and face-painting.
The event demonstrated the extensive technical and physical capabilities of Nevada and California apprentice linemen. The $12,000 raised by the event will benefit the United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra.
Congratulations to all the competitors!
Congratulations on your service!

San Jose
February 27, 2015

HONOREES

40 Years
Garrett, Donna
Hernandez, Edward
Langone, Jan
Oglesby, Frank
Vetrano, Barry

35 Years
Bergh, Janice
Citti Jr., Ralph
Davis, Richard
Gonzales, Emile
Guerrero, Ralph
Ibarra, John
Lane, Steve
Lueck, Douglas
Mannina, Alice
Monahan, Timothy
Mumphrey, Valerie
Muro, Armando
Oka, Suzy
Rodrigo Jr., Victor
Rogers, Maria
Tomka, Sharon
Van Waardenburg, David
Zuniga, Gary

30 Years
Caldwell, Fred
Carrithers, Elizabeth
Chavez, Antonio
Charlton, Jeffrey
Dean, John
Guillen, David
Itanen, Allen
Knapp, Everett
Lalone, Gwendolyn
Lopez, Paul
McClellan, Marc
Moore, Michael
Narlesky, Peter
Orepeza, Ernest
Patterson Jr., Norrell
Pedrosa, Frank
Pollock, Camae
Redman, Randy
Suniga, Ruben
Van Waardenburg, David

25 Years
Agayou, Aurelio
Arevalo, Michael
Campbell, Gene
Castellanos, Judy
Chabot, Jeffrey
Cohen, John
Gallegos, David
Huson, Allen
Knapp, Everett

20 Years
Espejo, Pablo
Fraldy, Kevin
Gonzalez, Leonard
Harlow, Jerry
Hull, John
Hull, John
Johnson, Jeffrey
Kiles, Janet
Leyva, Judah
Macadangdang, Mark
Magana, Manuel
Masterson, Grant
McIntosh, Las
Novoa, Brett
Olfert, David
Papadopoulos, Francisco
Pavone, Steve
Prado, Brian
Ruddle, Stephen
Street, Margaret
Trevino, Mary
Vera, Armando

15 Years
Anas, Christine
Arias, Matt
Bristow, John
Calvo, Alex
Castillo, Natale
Espinosa, Beulah
Freedman, Neil
Garza, Mark
Green, Alex

10 Years
Aguilera, Delia
Alcayde, Marta
Barfield, Linda
Becker, Janette
Brown, Lisa
Candelaria, Robert
Carrillo, Ricardo
Carrillo, Jesus
Carrillo, John
Carrillo, Jesus
Chavez, Matias
Chernenko, Evgeny
Crews, David
Delgado, Rob
Diaz, Dan
Eckhoff, Perry
Evans, David

5 Years
Arroyo, Jaime
Arvizu, Arturo
Arvizu, Francisco
Arvizu, Guillermo
Arvizu, Jose
Banfield, Joshua
Becker, Joanne
Brown, Lisa
Candelaria, Robert
Chace, Ricardo
Coetzee, Dawid
Cortez, Aaron
Crespin, Armando
Curea, Mariano
Davila, Jason
De La Rosa, Beverly
Eckhoff, Perry

Photos by John Storey
Stress, PPE and chicken switches

Frontrier Communications employees attended a SMUD class on high voltage and protection for telecommunications workers installing equipment in SMUD substations. The training included grounding at substations, recognizing live parts, arc flash and hazards in the workplace. It was a two-day course. Supervisors want employees to have one set of FR clothing for work.

Questions arose surrounding testing of equipment in SMUD substations. The company has increased the chance of the technician coming in contact with battery acid.

Stress, PPE and chicken switches

Union Plus interstate moving discount

Moving?

Your first move should be to check out the Union Plus Moving Discount program. Allied and North American Van Lines have partnered with two nationally trusted, full-service van lines, Allied and North American to provide you with easy access to comparison moving estimates, free in-home surveys, and special discounts on long distance moving and in-transit storage.

Free Moving Estimate

Get a free estimate courtesy of Allied and North American Van Lines. Along with your free moving estimate, you are qualified to get special discounts for your moving day. Visit www.UnionPlus.org/Moving to get your free moving estimate or call 1-800-234-1159 today to speak to a knowledgeable representative.

Requests double for peer group presentations

Due to the increased level of requests for peer groups to attend and make presentations at safety kick-offs and other events it has become necessary to require a minimum two-week lead time. Requests have almost doubled from times past and now that the word is out, committee members and safety stewards are involved what was once a request for approximately 25 presentations per group per year are expected to be close to 50.

Safety stewards and committee members attended a peer communications class last February and the 14 additional speakers has alleviated some of the workload; however, staff requests have recovered needs have become an important consideration. The peer groups have had to turn down approximately 10 requests this year due to schedule conflicts or short notice requests. Any staff members who wish to have a Hold the Pull, Control the Pressure or Keep the Clearance safety talk at their stewards training or other event, contact John Kent (at John.Kent@vpgc.com). Hold the Pull Stewards Summit: The Hold the Pull annual meeting on June 11 featured presentations by Julius Mathews from IBEW Local 1547, which is forming a peer safety program modeled on our’s, and by Brady Hansen, the IBEW Local 77 line man who has been organizing material and technical assistance for line men in Suriname. For additional reporting on this event, please see page 17.

Control the Pressure: The CTP group is now planning their safety stewards summit, scheduled for August 12th. Cut-off date for attendance confirmation is August 5.

On May 30, four members of the CTP committee and two safety stewards attended the second annual gas rodeo at the Livermore Training Academy. The CTP crew manned an information booth that had set up a monitor showing the peer groups video, passed out stickers, literature and talked with the crowd about gas safety. PG&E invited CTP to attend through Business Representative Lou Mennel.
Clear blue skies and mild weather prevailed at IBEW 1245’s two soccer tournaments for Line Clearance Tree Trimmers this spring. The tournaments were held on April 18 at Mistlin Sports Center in Ripon and on May 9 at Alan Witt Community Park in Fairfield.

Eight teams at each location took to the fields in brightly colored jerseys of green, blue, orange, gold, red, maroon, white and navy blue, while families and friends cheered them on. Both tournaments featured activities with kids, including junior soccer competition and spirited whacking of the piñatas, which eventually yielded their treats.

![Rippon Tournament](http://bit.ly/1yLz8sn)

**Friendship, Unity, Solidarity**

**Amistad, Unidad, Solidaridad**

Un cielo despejado y un agradable clima prevalecieron en los dos torneos de fútbol de los Podadores de Árboles para el Despeje de Líneas del IBEW 1245 esta primavera. Los torneos se celebraron el 18 de abril en el Centro Deportivo Mistlin en Ripon y el 9 de mayo en el parque comunitario Alan Witt en Fairfield.

Ocho equipos en cada localidad tomaron los campos de fútbol con sus coloridas camisetas verdes, azules, anaranjadas, doradas, rojas, rojas granate, blancas y azules marino, mientras los familiares y amigos los animaban. En ambos torneos se llevaron a cabo actividades infantiles, incluidas competencias de fútbol juvenil y unas buenas palizas a las piñatas, que finalmente dejaron caer su botín.

¡Y, naturalmente, hubo una deliciosa
And naturally, there was a delicious barbecue!

The 12-man rosters were developed by team captains from both localities, who helped preserve and promote the spirit of the day: Amistad, Unidad, Solidaridad (Friendship, Unity, Solidarity).

Tree Trimmer Business Reps Junior Ornelas, Abel Sanchez and Carl Lamers assisted with game-day logistics at both locations, with plenty of help from other IBEW 1245 staff. Lou Minnel and Al Fortier manned the 1245 BBQ in Fairfield, while Mike Saner and John Mendoza did chef duty in Ripon. Volunteer Jose Artiga oversaw kids’ activities.

Hope to see you all again next year!

MORE PHOTOS of the Fairfield Tournament are online here:
http://bit.ly/1QGCsrt

FAIRFIELD, CA Saturday May 9th

barbacoa!

Los capitanes de los equipos de cada localidad estuvieron a cargo de desarrollar sus plantillas de 12 jugadores y ayudaron a preservar y promover el espíritu de la jornada: Amistad, Unidad, Solidaridad.

Los Representantes de Negocios de los Podadores de Árboles Junior Ornelas, Abel Sanchez y Carl Lamers colaboraron con la logística del día del torneo en ambas localidades, con mucha ayuda del personal del IBEW 1245. Lou Minnel y Al Fortier estuvieron a cargo de la barbacoa 1245 en Fairfield, mientras Mike Saner y John Mendoza cumplieron con el deber de chef en Ripon. El voluntario Jose Artiga supervisó las actividades infantiles.

¡Esperamos verlos a todos de nuevo el año que viene!
Arbitration is a success
Fired member gets job back

We are pleased to report that we prevailed in arbitration over a termination at Wright Tree Service of the West. The union brother was accused of challenging a coworker to fight by two General Foremen. The alleged threat was allegedly witnessed by the two General Foremen whose testimony was a no sale with the arbiter. Our brother supposedly challenged his very good friend who also testified that there was no challenge. Importantly, our fine Staff Attorney Alex Pacheco found that sworn testimony from an unemployment appeal hearing could be used in the arbitration. The General Foremen’s testimony differed in the unemployment appeal hearing and the arbitration, causing credibility issues for both. Our union brother was ordered to be made whole, less one week suspension, and get his job back.

A couple of contractors are holding up employee wage progressions over the lack of Commercial Drivers Licenses. We have made some headway and expect to prevail on this issue.

The recently filed grievance concerning 10-hour shifts continues to progress as we gather more information regarding claims of past practice.

We had an employee terminated for not reporting damage to a cable line. Employees must report all incidents in the system; this is company policy. Most importantly, when PG&E gets involved with the situation, there is no room for error here. Honesty is the best policy.

Mario Tree Service
Mario crew are working in the north part of the state in areas represented by Business Rep. Carl Lamers. We are having issues with the company not paying employee union dues. We are working with the company to fix this issue.

Synergy Tree
Some weeks ago the company was put on “stand down” by PG&E for an incident that happened in the San Jose Division. They did not work for two weeks. They tore down a primary line and then put it up themselves; they did not tell anyone. A PG&E lineman saw the lines tied with a piece of rope on both poles’ insulators. The employees were so lucky that they were not electrocuted.

Trees Inc.
We met up with Vegetation Control crews in Los Padres Division. They asked for more money as they are the lowest paid on PG&E property. They also asked about Obama’s proposal to require employers to provide paid sick leave. His proposal has not yet been passed by Congress.

The contract covering San Joaquin—Stockton, SMUD, Angels Camp, and Pine Grove—has been awarded to Wright Tree Service of the West. The company is interested in keeping as many of the employees as possible. Notification has been issued for transfers to PG&E, South Dakota, Salt Lake City, Arizona, and any other state where the company is performing work.

Utility Tree Service
Utility Tree has a lot of work in the San Jose Division. We have a few issues with promotions and are trying to fix them. The company is not giving vacations because they are behind schedule.

The Grievance Review Committee (GRC) has four open termination cases pending, with one coming on line. Several new grievances are also coming down the line. We expect to discuss these matters at the next GRC, in June, with the possibility of moving them to the Arbitration Committee.

The SMUD contract has been awarded to The Original Mowbray in Stockton, SMUD, Angels Camp and Pine Grove has been awarded to Wright Tree Service of the West. The company is interested in keeping as many of the employees as possible. Notification has been issued for transfers to PG&E, South Dakota, Salt Lake City, Arizona, and any other state where the company is performing work.

The company has agreed to adhere to the agreement when a crew member fails to show up for work. The less senior employee shall be sent home for the day.

Davey Tree Surgery
Central Coast has sent a three-man crew to the state of Washington for a special project. They asked the union for help with travel letters.

There are still some issues with vacation hours not being paid. Over Memorial Day everyone worked five 8-hour days because of the holiday. The following week crews returned to their alternative schedules.

El arbitraje es un éxito
Miembro que había sido despedido regresa al trabajo

No complace informar que hemos prevalecido en el arbitraje de un despido en Wright Tree Service of the West. Dos capataces generales acusaron a un hermano sindicalista de desafiar a un compañero de trabajo a una pelea. La presentación amonestó al árbitro por no aceptar como justo. Nuestro hermano supuestamente desafió a su muy buen amigo, quien también testificó que no hubo ningún desafío. Es importante destacar que el excelente abogado de nuestro equipo, Alex Pacheco, encontró que el testimonio jurado de una audiencia de apelación de desempleo podría utilizarlo en el arbitraje. Los testimonios de los Capataces Generales diferían en la audiencia de apelación de desempleo y durante el arbitraje, causando problemas de credibilidad en ambos. Nuestro hermano sindicalista recibió una orden de reintegrarse, menos una suspensión de una semana y de recuperar su empleo.

Algunos contratistas han detenido los ascensos salariales de los empleados en base a la falta de licencias de conducir comerciales. Hemos logrado algunos avances y esperamos prevalecer sobre este asunto.

Synergy Tree
Algunas semanas atrás PG&E suspendió a la compañía por un incidente que ocurrió en la División de San José. No trabajaron durante dos semanas. Derradieron una línea principal y luego volvieron a instalarlos. Aún no han sido aprobados por los representantes de Negocios, Carl Lamers. Estamos teniendo problemas con la compañía por no pagar las cuotas sindicales con los empleados. Estamos trabajando con la empresa para solucionar este problema.

Trees Inc.
Nos reunimos con cuadrillas de control de la vegetación en la División de Los Padres. Ellos pidieron más dinero, ya que son los que reciben los más bajos salarios en las instalaciones de PG&E. También preguntaron sobre la propuesta de Obama para exigir a los empleadores proporcionar permisos con pago por enfermedad. Su propuesta aún no ha sido aprobada por el Congreso.

El contrato que cubre San Joaquin–Stockton, SMUD, Angels Camp y Pine Grove ha sido otorgado a Tree Service Wright del oeste. La compañía está interesada en mantener la mayor cantidad de empleados posible. Se han emitido las notificaciones para permitir transferencias a PG&E, Dakota del Sur, Salt Lake City, Arizona, y cualquier otro estado donde la compañía está realizando trabajos.
Fight for Fifteen

IBEW 1245 members rallied at events across the state on April 15 to support the Fight for $15 movement.

At an event in Berkeley, IBEW 1245 Organizer Fred Ross inspired the crowd with a bilingual address and introduced Robert Reich, the former United States Secretary of Labor. IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward Logan Jonas joined the rally just after finishing his night shift at PG&E.

In Fresno, IBEW 1245 members and Organizing Stewards stood shoulder to shoulder with other protesters outside a McDonald’s to call attention to the company’s low wages and unfair scheduling practices. Representing IBEW 1245 were Lupe Flores, Angel Herrera, Sonia Shepherd, Stan Zamora, Magdalena Gomez, Cesar Gonzales, Ashley Boles, Georgett Carrillo, P.J. Saenz and Miguel Pagan.

After more than two years of pressure from the labor movement, McDonald’s recently raised its pay by one dollar an hour at some of its non-franchised stores – a move that workers there say is too small to make a real impact on their lives.

In Sacramento 1245 members joined with hundreds of others for a march on the Capitol.

Organizing Steward Rene Cruz-Martinez, who began the day picketing at the Pocket McDonald’s in Sacramento, said two workers bravely came out and joined the strike.

“Both of these young girls are students and one of them has to work two jobs to afford school and also help her parents with money,” said Cruz-Martinez.

“The thing that stood out for me the most here in Sacramento was the unity of all the workers and affiliated unions. This is definitely what a union is about: working people standing together, supporting all brothers and sisters in their time of need,” she said.

“This has been one of the most exciting actions I have been to... We shut down McDonald’s and took over Sacramento City Hall,” she added.

Miembro, de la página 30

Utility Tree Service

Utility Tree tiene mucho trabajo en la División de San José. Tenemos algunos problemas con los ascensos y estamos tratando de solucionarlos. La compañía no está dando las vacaciones, ya que tienen trabajo atrasado.

El Comité de Revisión de Quejas (GRC) tiene cuatro casos de despido pendientes, y uno más en camino. También se están procesando nuevas quejas. Esperamos discutir estos asuntos en la próxima reunión del GRC en junio y existe la posibilidad de pasarlos al Comité de Arbitraje.

El contrato de SMUD ha sido otorgado a The Original Mowbray en el norte. UTS está permitiendo transferencias a lo largo de todo el sistema. Esperamos que varios miembros cambien de sede para North Valley, Solano, Yolo y la División de San Joaquin.

Get the latest news at
www.ibew1245.com
Congratulations newly-retired members

The Local 1245 Retirees Club congratulates these recently-retired members of the union. We invite you to participate in a Retiree Club chapter in Dublin, Santa Rosa, Merced, Reno, Verington, Carson City or Winnemucca. If you don’t have a chapter nearby, call the union at 707-452-2718 and find out how you can help start one!

Kelly Ackerson 37 years
San Luis Obispo, CA

Jesse Cineros
Phil Fanoni 38 years
19 years
Auburn, CA

Dan Aguayo 16 years
Fresno, CA

Ralph Citti 30 years
San Jose, CA

Ira Cappie 29 years
San Jose, CA

David Ahart 16 years
Coarsegold, CA

Kathleen Clark 11 years
Stockton, CA

Pamala Camera 34 years
Robert Camacho 36 years
Durham, CA

Vicki Cliff 30 years
Somerston, CA

Douglas Brum 23 years

Steven Cole 34 years
Nevada City, CA

Robert Aranda 30 years
Fresno, CA

Charles Combs Jr. 19 years
Stockton, CA

Fred Herr 31 years
Oroville, CA

32 July – September 2015

Darrel Hick 25 years
San Jose, CA

Bakersfield, CA

Michael Jackson 32 years
San Luis Obispo, CA

Sandy Jay 30 years
Clovis, CA

36 years
San Carlos, CA

Tommy Kelly 30 years
San Carlos, CA

John Kuehn 42 years
San Francisco, CA

Lorsa Gott 19 years
Atascadero, CA

Josie Hagen 38 years
Salinas, CA

Gonzalo Gonzalez 35 years
Salinas, CA

Virginia Armijo 43 years
Nipomo, CA

Brentwood, CA

46 years

Brent Bohannon 35 years
Paciﬁca, CA

Lee Covington 30 years
Redding, CA

Barney Curtice 14 years
Eureka, CA

Charles Damon 24 years
Eureka, CA

Corrine Dauer 41 years
Ukiah, CA

Noel De Groof 35 years
Grande Bay, CA

Kimball Deftreeos 19 years
Stockton, CA

Phil Dela Calzada 38 years
Daly City, CA

Anna Darho 45 years
Rohnert Park, CA

Jeffrey Dillion 11 years
Hydeville, CA

Michael Dillon 38 years
Salinas, CA

Rodney Dixon 37 years
Ferant, OR

Diana Donnelly 20 years
Shingle Springs, CA

Peneleop Douglas 31 years
Hayward, CA

Richard Dubin 16 years
Stockton, CA

Brian Duffy 12 years
Plumas Lake, CA

Vern Dunham 46 years
Brentwood, CA

James Dunham 37 years
Stockton, CA

Jesse Espinosa 18 years
Bakersﬁeld, CA

Gary Esposito 36 years
Fresno, CA

Jim Hernandez 36 years
Stockton, CA

Teresita Hernandez 37 years
Daily City, CA

Fred Herr 31 years
Oroville, CA

Darrel Hick 25 years
San Jose, CA

Bakersﬁeld, CA

Michael Jackson 32 years
San Luis Obispo, CA

Sandy Jay 30 years
Clovis, CA

Robert Camacho 36 years
Fresno, CA

William Matsuyama 33 years
Seaside, CA

Donald Mayes 37 years
Pen Valley, CA

Beverly McArther 36 years
Sebastopol, CA

Nadine McDaniel-Allen 38 years
Stockton, CA

Robert McFarling III 29 years
San Francisco, CA

Lilia King 35 years
San Francisco, CA

Margaret Khavul 29 years
San Francisco, CA

Vicki King 35 years
Santa Cruz, CA

Brandon King 35 years
San Francisco, CA

Aubrey, CA

Robert Miller 30 years
Manatea, CA

Kevin Sage 30 years
Brentwood, CA

Miguel Reyes 41 years
Petula, CA

Richard Nieves 43 years
Los Banos, CA

Glenn Richards 43 years
Los Banos, CA

Rhonda Richards 45 years
Piercy, CA

Cathy Rosenwinkel 32 years
Fresno, CA

Elizabeth Round 42 years
Clearwater, FL

Lawrence Rudick 114 years
Paradise, CA

Kevin Sage 28 years
Carmel, CA

David Sanders 29 years
Oceanside, CA

Louis Satariano 48 years
Pioneer, CA

Penelope Schade 38 years
Fresno, CA

Michael Neeve 18 years
San Bruno, CA
Retiree Club Meeting Schedule
You can find the specific dates for each month at www.ibew1245.com/unit-meetings

East Bay Chapter: 2nd Thursday each month, 10 a.m., IBEW Local 595, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA.

Santa Rosa Chapter: 1st Tuesday each month, 10 a.m., at Coco’s Restaurant, 1501 Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa, CA.

Merced Chapter: 1st Tuesday each month, 10 a.m., Merced Senior Community, 753 W. 15th Street, Merced, CA.

Reno/Sparks Chapter: 3rd Wednesday each month, 8:30 a.m., Denny’s Restaurant, 205 E. Nugget Ave, Sparks, NV.

Yerington Chapter: Meets 2nd Tuesday each month, 10:30 a.m. breakfast, 11 a.m. meeting, Dini’s Lucky Club, 45 N. Main St., Yerington, NV.

Carson City Chapter: 4th Thursday each month, 9:00 a.m., Grandma Hattie’s Restaurant, 2811 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV.

Winnemucca Chapter: 4th Wednesday each month, 11 a.m., Round Table Pizza, 1043 W. Fourth St., Winnemucca, NV.

Utility Reporter

Barry Scholl 31 years Eureka, CA
Jeffery Scotti 29 years Coarsegold, CA
Robert Seary 23 years Fairfield, CA
Joe Serrano 34 years Bakersfield, CA
David Sinclair 32 years Red Bluff, CA
William Singh 34 years Fresno, CA
Roger Smith 32 years Fresno, CA
Steven Smith 31 years Marysville, CA
Charlene Scares 40 years St. James, LA
William Sparks 28 years Carmichael, CA
Mike Spessard 24 years Stockton, CA
J Stahl 36 years Jamestown, CA
Cynthia Stewart 49 years Fallon, CA
Richard Stillwell 30 years Fresno, CA
Richard Storamski 37 years Rescue, CA
David Sutherlin 30 years Magalia, CA
Marianne Swain 38 years Modesto, CA
Marie Swanson 35 years Antioch, CA
Susan Tachara 36 years Manteca, CA
Kathleen Taylor 14 years Morro Bay, CA
Marjorie Tennison 42 years Roseville, CA
Lee Thomas 36 years Eureka, CA
Tenida Thompson 36 years Vallejo, CA
Daniel Tingley 34 years Santa Rosa, CA
Johna Tolch 39 years Stockton, CA
Michael Tumidanski 38 years Scotts Valley, CA
Brent Turner 35 years Novato, CA
Richard Wiederhold 41 years Red Bluff, CA
Gresham, OR

I PROMISE THAT THE TPP TRADE PACT WILL ENFORCE LABOR STANDARDS!

I PROMISE THAT THE TPP TRADE PACT WILL ENFORCE LABOR STANDARDS!

4th Wednesday each month, 11 a.m., Round Table Pizza, 1043 W. Fourth St., Winnemucca, NV.

TPP in trouble
The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a secretive trade agreement that threatens U.S. jobs, was dealt a stunning blow on June 12 when the U.S. House refused to approve a key component of the bill.

Although Congress could still reverse itself, the vote on June 12 indicated that the bill was in deep trouble—largely due to a massive lobbying effort by trade unionists. Two IBEW 1245 members spoke eloquently against TPP on the union’s website, including retiree activist William Wallace.

“Because of the secrecy surrounding it, we don’t really know what it contains,” Wallace said. “However, what we do know from Wikileaks is that the TPP will effectively dismantle labor, environmental, health, food safety and financial laws. It will allow corporations to challenge our laws in international tribunals rather than our own court system.”

His entire analysis can be read at http://bit.ly/1Gcd47d.

Organizing steward P.J. Saenz also wrote against the TPP, saying it was unacceptable to accept trade deals with countries that promote human and sex trafficking, keep workers’ wages low, and look the other way when trade union leaders are murdered.

“The explanation that we need to accept trading with these countries under the logic that ‘if we don’t, China will’ is ridiculous and narrow-minded. We should never accept a trade deal that hands the sovereignty of nations like ours to the biggest corporations of the world in order to delude ourselves into the idea that this will solve our trade deficit with China,” Saenz said.

Saenz’s entire analysis can be read at http://bit.ly/1TreqVA.

Retiree Chapter Supports Nevada’s Yerington Senior Center
The IBEW Local 1245 Retiree Chapter presented $250.00 in Community Funds to the Yerington Senior Center. The big check was made out to Older Americans Of Lyon County (OLAF) towards their food program.

The chapter also helps by meeting monthly at the center and purchasing their lunches towards the count for total people served at the Center and in reports for the seniors in Yerington.

Members are left to right: Judy Grush, Chapter Treasurer, Pauline and Walt Plett, Yerington Chapter and NARA State President, TBird, Chapter Vice President, Jim Hill, Lyon Co. Center Director Jeanie Howard, (Catch that big smile!), Recording Secretary Alyce Resse, and behind Alyce is Bob Grush. Karen Kostenbader, Chapter Trustee had to leave early. Sue Bird provided the picture.

Stay connected through the IBEW 1245 Retirees Club.

P.J. Saenz
Samantha Gerstle accepts plaque from Business Manager Tom Dalzell, left, and retired Senior Assistant Business Manager Dorothy Fortier, right, who served as contest judge.

Samantha Gerstle, daughter of IBEW 1245 member Bob Gerstle, has won the 2015 Al Sandoval Competitive Scholarship. Samantha's winning essay responded to this year's question: The gap between rich and poor in America is increasing, while the middle class is shrinking. Should this concern high school students? Is there anything you can do about it as you enter adult life?

The Wage Gap

By Sam Gerstle

In recent years America's economic gap, between the rich and the poor, has increased in a staggering manner. The United States has one of the world's biggest inequalities among income distributions. Our country is experiencing the worst income inequality since 1928, which only continues to grow with each passing year. As a high school senior preparing to attend college, I speak for many of my peers when I say this is an extreme point of concern for many reasons.

The impact of the diminishing middle class is evident in the corresponding shrinkage of average income jobs. Numerous jobs that are considered routine and once were necessity to everyday life are now disappearing. High school students should be concerned, due to the fact they will have fewer economic opportunities than their parents did. Furthermore, high school students will have more difficulty climbing the economic ladder and achieving higher financial status with every bypassing year.

In increasing numbers, individuals born into the middle class are finding themselves pushed into the lower class as the number of middle class jobs decreases. The American dream, or the foundation of American economics, is now becoming overwhelmingly out of reach.

As teens mature and become adults, there are a number of ways to stem the tide of the erosion of middle class jobs and moreover ensure oneself of being economically stable. College plays an incredibly important role in providing economic advantages; high school students who attend college and receive a degree typically make about twenty-eight thousand dollars more than individuals with solely a high school education. Additionally, high school students can promote change within the economic system by voting for political candidates. Political candidates who support the middle class can drastically transform fiscal policy to support persons of the middle class. Getting involved in organizations that focus on furthering prosperity in Middle America is another way teenagers reaching the threshold of adulthood can ensure that they are making sure the gap between classes does not continue to grow.

Many high school students do not choose the road of a four-year school. Trade schools, community colleges and work are other options. These paths frequently lead to union jobs, which provide fair wages and benefits that are critical to maintaining the middle class.

The bottom line is, it is the middle class that fuels economic growth and prosperity in America. Without a middle class, this country cannot sustain the social programs that provide for the less fortunate. The “New World” that many politicians envision is not a country that will take care of its own—and that is not the country I desire to see in my future.

Council honors outgoing IBEW 1245 President Mike Davis

Members of the Executive Board and entire Advisory Council gave a standing ovation to outgoing IBEW 1245 President Mike Davis (seated), who recently resigned. Davis held the position since 2004, making him the second longest serving president in the local union’s history.

“Mike served the union with great distinction and we appreciate his service more than words can say,” said Business Manager Tom Dalzell.

Davis was initiated into IBEW in June of 1967, and was long active in the union’s Political Education Committee. He served at various times as Executive Board member (Southern Area), Treasurer, and Vice President, before becoming president. He is a graduate of the UC Berkeley Labor Studies Program.

But if you really want to know where his heart is at, consider this: Brother Davis served as a shop steward from 1969, two years after he joined the union, until 2010, when he retired from PG&E.

Thank you for your service, Mike. No union heart ever beat steadier or truer.
Longshore legend Harry Bridges comes to life at Advisory Council

Harry Bridges, the legendary leader of the Longshore Workers, came to life once again in a dramatic one-man show performed by actor Ian Ruskin for the IBEW 1245 Advisory Council at Weakley Hall.

Bridges won fame, adoration, and a whole bunch of enemies when he led longshore workers in an epic strike in 1934. After police shot and killed two strike supporters, San Francisco unions rose up in a general strike that paralyzed the city and led to a settlement of the longshoreman's grievances.

That strike also set the stage for a new era of industrial organizing. Bridges himself helped the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) lead an organizing drive at Pacific Gas & Electric in 1937-38. Although it failed, it set the stage for an organizing drive in the 1940s that succeeded in organizing most PG&E employees into a single, powerful union.

Ruskin, occasionally sipping from a glass of beer, portrayed Bridges as a straight-talking union man, aware of his personal shortcomings but always steadfast in his commitment to his fellow workers. Bridges came to America from Australia, led a tumultuous life that included multiple marriages, multiple successes at the bargaining table, and multiple encounters with the federal government, which alleged he was a communist and tried to deport him.

Bridges, as portrayed by Ruskin, seemed to take special glee in thwarting the government's vendetta against him. Bridges never denied his association with communist workers, nor his admiration for the contribution that many of them made to the labor movement. But he adamantly denied that he ever belonged to the Communist Party. And the government never succeeded in deporting him.

IBEW 1245 founder Ron Weakley, who knew Bridges well, was subjected to the same sort of political slurs and red-baiting in the mid-1940s. Weakley, a leader of the CIO organizing drive at PG&E in the 1940s, became fed up with east coast CIO leaders who falsely accused him of being a communist. When it became clear that Weakley's people and the CIO were going to part ways, “Harry Bridges offered us a home” at the Longshoreman's hall, Weakley once said.

But Weakley didn’t need to take Bridges up on his offer of shelter. Weakley led 5,000 PG&E employees out of the CIO and they made a new home in the IBEW. By 1953, Weakley had organized one big union at PG&E, IBEW Local 1245, and negotiated the union’s first system-wide labor agreement with the utility.

Bridges and Weakley both fought against seemingly impossible odds to organize powerful, enduring unions that have delivered top wages, benefits and working conditions to this very day. Ruskin’s portrayal of Harry Bridges reminds us that ordinary people are capable of doing extraordinary things when they decide to fight back against injustice.

That’s a lesson the Advisory Council members apparently took to heart: they gave Ruskin’s performance a long standing ovation.

Managing Change in the Energy Industry

“IBEW 1245 Competitive Challenges” Video Previewed

There are a host of competitive challenges in today’s utility industry, many of which could impact IBEW 1245 members. At the spring Advisory Council meeting, Business Manager Tom Dalzell premiered a new video that outlines the challenges and how the union is responding to them. See the video at: http://bit.ly/1TcbWU6
Pineda’s mural captures spirit of IBEW 1245

Muralist Eduardo Pineda was greeted warmly by the Advisory Council in April at the official unveiling of his mural depicting the life and times of IBEW 1245. Pineda’s murals are designed to help people celebrate those everyday moments that make our lives meaningful. He told the Advisory Council that he enjoyed working at Weakley Hall, which he described as a very energetic place.

He began gathering ideas for the mural in 2014, and began work at the beginning of this year. Families are a prominent feature of the mural because, after all, the union’s mission is to fight for and protect quality jobs that allow IBEW 1245 members to support their families and raise their children.

Thank you, Eduardo, for sharing your artistic vision with the current and future members of IBEW 1245.

Eduardo Pineda is greeted with warm applause by the Advisory Council.
Labor champions fire up organizing stewards

How can you help members learn how to fight for their rights? One way is to put them in the same room as proven fighters!

That’s a guiding principle of IBEW 1245’s organizing stewards program, and it was on full view recently when 56 organizing stewards heard from two veterans of the fight for workers’ rights: Congressman George Miller and Culinary Workers Union President D. Taylor.

Miller, who just retired from Congress after 40 years of defending workers’ rights, reminded the organizing stewards that the middle class didn’t just happen—working people fought together to create it. With the middle class under attack today, that fight continues, as does the need to find more people to carry on the fight.

D. Taylor, who has spent 34 years as an organizer and leader of the Culinary Workers Union in Las Vegas, said that corporations can always find ways to get their message across to Members of Congress. The challenge is to make sure that representatives hear from ordinary constituents as well.

Miller didn’t boast about it, but his record of supporting workers was second to none during his 40 years in Congress, according to statistics compiled by the AFL-CIO. But there was something else about Miller that impressed Rene Cruz-Martinez, a four-year IBEW 1245 member: his “awesome sense of humor.” She said that organizing stewards could be counted on to implement Miller’s advice to “turn up the heat” on politicians.

One politician in the union’s sights, Cruz-Martinez said, is Ami Berra. The Sacramento-area congressman promised to oppose the anti-worker Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, but then switched his position. “Here in Sacramento we will continue to fight him on that,” she promised.

Organizing Steward Candice Brace, a three-year member at PG&E, put it this way: “Your job is not done once the person you voted for is elected into office, (you must) continue to hold them accountable. The labor movement is an on-going battle to keep what workers won in the past, and to win additional improvements “for those who come after,” said Anthony Powell, an organizing steward and 11-year IBEW member at PG&E. “D. Taylor and George Miller are examples of strong leaders” who have devoted themselves to protecting workers.

“Before this training I was skeptical of politicians, but George Miller renewed my faith and belief that there truly are politicians who say what they mean and do what they say,” said Powell.

The meeting with Miller and Taylor was held April 29 at Weakley Hall in Va- caville. The organizing stewards and prospective organizing stewards in attendance should have plenty of chances to put the lessons they learned into practice in the not-too-distant future: major local, state and national elections are coming up in 2016 and workers’ rights and standard of living will be on the line.

It didn’t take Organizing Steward Logan Jonas many words to sum up the day, and the challenges ahead: “Don’t wait, get up, get out, organize or die.”

By Eileen Purcell  
Photos by John Storey

On Wednesday, May 20, more than 60 IBEW 1245 Organizing Stewards and prospective Organizing Stewards filled the largest banquet room at the Bancroft Hotel in Berkeley for the Third Annual Robert Reich Seminar. In addition to Reich, representatives of the Fight for 15, UFCW’s El Super Contract fight, and IBEW Local 77 gave presentations. Special guests Bob King, the former president of the United Auto Workers (UAW), Margo Feinberg, legal counsel for UFCW, labor attorney Bill Carder, and the UC Berkeley Labor Center also joined us.

Organizing Steward Nilda Garcia (PG&E, Sacramento Call Center) kicked off the day, welcoming 1245’s members who hailed from Auburn, Bishop Ranch, Concord, Fresno, Merced, Modesto, Sacramento, Stockton, and San Jose. IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward Eric Sunderland (SMUD, Sacramento) introduced the first panel which was led by Erika Lenhart, the northern California Coordinator of the East Bay Organizing Committee (EOBOC) and organizer of the “Fight for Fifteen.” Shonda Roberts, an EBOC member and fast food worker from KFC and Patricia Contreas, a community organizer from EBASE joined Lenhart to paint the picture of the campaign.

The question: how to leverage enough power to force a $5 billion corporation to raise wages and recognize their workers as people. The answer: by zeroing in on McDonalds, the largest retailer in the US, demonstrating their skill. In Oakland, 60,000 people occupied McDonalds in northern California alone while Some 20,000 people took to the streets to raise wages and recognize their work-ers as people. The answer: by zeroing in on McDonalds, the largest retailer in the world, acting like a union and building coalitions and solidarity. Roberts described the range of fast food in the world, acting like a union umbrella. The third step: educate and mobilize by participating in the Renew program, in legislative conferences, new organizing blitzes, meet and greets, trainings, phone banks and next up meetings. Shaunie Wheeler, Local 77’s political action director, addressed the importance of political engagement. Walters thanked Dalzell and Local 1245 for providing such a rich model of organizing and solidarity.

Rigo Valdez, UFCW 770 Director of Organizing rallied the group with the refrain “organize or die” and sketched the compelling story of the contract.

...inequality has risen to levels not seen since the ‘Gilded Age’ of the robber barons.”

Shaunie Wheeler, Political Action Director of Local 77 spoke about political engagement.

Walters and his staff have dedicated time and resources toward building an organizing culture and young worker movement in Washington State. Matt Reese, a journeyman tree trimmer and staff organizer, detailed the Local’s approach to young members. The first step: have fun and meet co-workers. The second step: engage in beneficial activities under the union umbrella. The third step: educate and mobilize by participating in the Renew program, in legislative meetings, new organizing blitzes, meet and greets, trainings, phone banks and next up meetings. Shaunie Wheeler, Local 77’s political action director, addressed the importance of political engagement. Walters thanked Dalzell and Local 1245 for providing such a rich model of organizing and solidarity.

Rigo Valdez, UFCW 770 Director of Organizing rallied the group with the refrain “organize or die” and sketched the compelling story of the contract.

Shaunie Wheeler, Political Action Director of Local 77 spoke about political engagement.

Robert Reich: Action is the best remedy for cynicism.

Rigo Valdez, Director of Organizing for UFCW 770.
1245’s leadership in the fight to reclaim democracy

Left to right; Margo Feinberg, Robert Reich and Rigo Valdez at the IBEW 1245 Annual Robert Reich Seminar at the Bancroft Hotel in Berkeley, Calif., on May 20th, 2015.

Left to right; Erika Lenhart, Shonda Roberts and Patricia Contras of the “The Fight for Fifteen” Campaign speak of their experiences.

Left to right; Eileen Purcell is a staff organizer for IBEW 1245.

Local 77 members with 1245 members.

fight for 600 workers at El Super markets in seven southern California stores and the subsequent boycott. Fighting against the third largest, multi-billion dollar retailer in Mexico, Chedraui, Valdez spelled out how to build power and break through fear by worker organizing and unity, creating strong community coalitions, doing quality research, creating pressure through federal and state agency filings, and even cross-border shareholder resolutions and litigation.

US Labor Secretary and Berkeley professor Robert Reich closed the day. He gave a quick history of unions, the shift from shared prosperity when unions represented 35% of the private sector to now, when union density has dropped to less than 7% in the private sector and inequality has risen to levels not seen since the “Gilded Age” of the robber barons. Reich reminded us that as grim as the times sometimes seem, there have been other times in our history equally grim and worse. He commended IBEW 1245 for the commitment to organizing workers, for holding politicians accountable, and for the drive to fight for economic and social justice for all. He reminded all present that solidarity and action are the best remedies against cynicism, saying:

“Organizing, mobilizing, and energizing takes patience and courage.”

Eileen Purcell is a staff organizer for IBEW 1245.
SERVICE AWARDS

San Luis Obispo
February 13, 2015

35 Years

30 Years

30 Years
Front row, from left: Jesse Gutierrez, Gary Hackett, and Mike Jacobson. Back row, from left: Brian Leader, Mark Buscher, and Danny Davis.

30 Years

30 Years
Front row, from left: Mark McDermott, Gloria Lima-Calderone, and Jim Layugan. Back row, from left: Richard Muscio, Jerry Camacho, and Patrick Boyle.

25 Years
Front row, from left: Renelle Hayes, Fidela Barrios, and Holly Barber. Back row, from left: Patricia Persky, Kevin Konzem, and Scott Tremper.

25 Years

20 Years
From left: Business Rep Pat Duffy and Darren Lessi.

15 Years
From left: (Duffy) with Bryan Anderson.

continued on next page
San Luis Obispo, from page 40

San Luis Obispo, from page 40

San Luis Obispo, from page 40

San Luis Obispo, from page 40

San Luis Obispo, from page 40

San Luis Obispo, from page 40

San Luis Obispo, from page 40

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San Luis Obispo, from page 40

San Luis Obispo, from page 40

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During March and April the IBEW presented IBEW Code of Excellence training to our Manufacturing membership. IBEW 9th District International Representative Charlie Randall opened the training sessions by welcoming our members and stressing the importance of the covenants of the IBEW Manufacturing Code of Excellence.

Education Department International Representative Tracy Prezeau did an excellent job in teaching each of the three 2-hour training sessions she put on. IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell requested the IBEW Code of Excellence training for 1245’s manufacturing membership.

“Preserving and recruiting good, unionized, manufacturing jobs in California is a priority for IBEW Local Union 1245, and so the Manufacturing Code of Excellence training was an easy decision,” Dalzell said. “We are appreciative to International Representatives Charlie Randall and Tracy Prezeau for their efforts, and for the participation of our manufacturing membership as well.”

IBEW Education Department International Representative Tracy Prezeau training COE at Sunoptics in Sacramento on March 26, 2015.

IBEW Manufacturing Code of Excellence (COE) Training sessions completed to date for Local 1245 are listed below.

• March 26 and 27, 2015: Sunoptics in Sacramento
• March 27, 2015 (p.m.): Ansaldobreda, Inc. in Pittsburg
• April 22, 2015: Eaton’s Cooper Lighting in Hayward

Eleven IBEW 1245 members and their families turned out in high spirits in Sacramento on Saturday, March 28 to march to commemorate the legacy of Cesar Chavez. They walked alongside the Grant High School drum line and several other unions and organizations.

Said 1245 member Nilda Garcia, “It was a beautiful Saturday morning, birds were chirping, pollen was heavy in the air, eyes itching, runny nose but it didn’t stop us from joining this great march!”

Some of the signs they carried read “#VIVA LA CAUSA”, “Proud IBEW 1245 Union Members,” and, perhaps the best of all, “I support my mom and because of the Union, my Mom can support me!”

IBEW 1245 members in attendance were Nilda Garcia, Julie Gonzalez, Eric Sunderland, Rene Cruz-Martinez, Candice Brace, Kevin Krummes, Ivan Pereda, Ricardo Hernandez, Steve Marcotte, Lupe Johnson and Treva Harrison.
Units lend a helping hand

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

**Carson City Retirees Chapter** donated $250 to the Minden Rotary Foundation of Douglas County for the Back-pack Buddies program and $250 to the Western Nevada Affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

**Unit 220**, San Luis Obispo/DCPP, donated $500 to the Arroyo Grande High School Relay for Life Event (on Aug. 1) through the American Cancer Society.

**Unit 2314**, Fremont/Hayward, donated $500 to the East Bay Bandits Baseball Club.

**Unit 2315**, Livermore, donated $300 to the Granada Little League T-Ball team in Livermore.

**Unit 2515**, Modesto, donated $250 to the Central Valley Organizing Stewards to help with their 2nd Annual Softball Tournament on July 7, 2015.

**Unit 3217**, City of Redding, donated $250 to the Veterans Resource Center of America.

**Unit 3309**, Truckee Donner PUD, donated $500 to the Truckee High School softball team.

**Unit 3310**, Truckee Meadow Water Authority, donated $250 to the Reno Comet Girls softball team.

**Unit 3712**, Santa Rosa, donated $250 to the Trinidad & Tobago Cultural Association of California, to assist with the San Francisco International Arts and Cultural Carnival parade.

**Unit 3912**, SMUD/Fresh Pond, donated $500 as follows: $200 to the Gold Rush Little League 2015 sponsorship program, $200 to the SMUD Employee Association to provide raffle prizes for the Red Cloud Fishing Derby on June 27, 2015, and $100 to the Knotty Pines Youth Bowling League.

**Unit 4718**, Stockton/rees, donated $500 to the Stockton Junior Soccer League.

**Yerington Retirees Chapter** donated $250 to the Senior Center’s Meals on Wheels Program.

**Unit 2317**, Antioch, donated $250 to the East County Meals on Wheels program.

**Unit 3111**, Eureka, donated $500 to Redwood Empire BMX.

**Unit 3217**, City of Redding, donated $250 to the Happy Valley Little League.

**Unit 3217**, City of Redding, donated $350 to the Redding Vipers Baseball Club.

**Unit 3218**, USBR/Keswick, donated $500 to the Redding Vipers Baseball Club.


**Unit 4718**, Stockton, donated $200 to the Central Valley Organizing Stewards, to help with their 2nd annual softball tournament on July 1.

**Unit 1112**, Bakersfield, donated $500 to Honor Flight Kern County, a non-profit organization for Veterans.

**Unit 3801**, Sacramento Clerical, donated $100 to the Sacramento Region's 4th Annual Charity Bowl.

**Community Service in Vallejo**

IBEW 1245 Advisory Council members lent a helping hand at the Veterans Memorial Building in Vallejo the day before the April Advisory Council meeting, performing work on lighting fixtures.

**IBEW 1245 Journeyman Linemen go the distance**

Call it a unity team. Journeyman linemen from four different IBEW 1245 employers joined forces to go the distance in the 11th annual Reno Tahoe Odyssey (RTO), a 178-mile relay race to benefit the Northern Nevada Children’s Cancer Foundation and other charities.

Teams consisted of 12 members who run a course around Lake Tahoe. It begins in Reno, runs through Truckee, CA, then down to Carson City, up to Virginia City, and back to Reno. The course is split into 36 sections or legs that vary in mileage from 2.5 miles to 8 miles. Each team member runs 3 legs for a total mileage of about 15 miles (give or take a couple of miles).

Three linemen competed from Liberty Utilities: Nick Rains, Sun Sa, and Justin Pinochi. They were joined by Linemen Breck Smith of SMUD, Scott Lawlor of NV Energy, and Damon Evenson from IBEW 1245 Outside Line. Wives, family and friends joined in to make it a 12-person team.

“We had quite a representation of IBEW 1245,” said Pinochi, who provided the photo and information for this story.

Liberty Utilities was a sponsor of the team, and IBEW 1245 donated directly to the Northern Nevada Children’s Cancer Foundation.

“The donation was unexpected and they announced it at the starting line and again at the finish—26 hours and 32 minutes later,” said Pinochi. A photo of the linemen with the IBEW 1245 banner was posted on the RTO facebook page.

The IBEW 1245 unity team: linemen from 4 different employers.
When Dev went before the judge his service as a marine was considered and since it looked like at the time Shain would live he was given a year in the Jefferson county jail. Good behavior got him out in three months. He was summoned before the judge again upon his release and given three days to clear up any business he had in Medford and get the hell out and don't ever be caught there again with any kind of knife or weapon that might cause any harm to any being. Dev gladly accepted the judge's extraction from town and said he would be gone by night fall. He was taken back to county where he was relieved of his wardrobe and given his clothes he hit the slammer with -money clip with a few dollars missing — and showed to the street by a big block headed Swedish cop that warned him, “De duge said three days now and I see you in town after dat, I skin your woman curtin’ noggins down a long brick wall in some alley I know.” Dev went to the bar where it happened and got his tools from the bartender. Dirty Mac had sent word his grip would be there when he got out of the can. He ordered a whiskey and threw the dollar on the bar. “Not in here mate, you ain’t drinkin’ in my saloon no more. Take your grip and move to another place. Don’t ever darken this doorway again.”

He went to the union hall on Grape Street and went upstairs. The old agent was sitting behind the counter having an afternoon coffee. Dev told him he was there for the rest of his storm money. They walked down Grape and turned up at the next block and went into the bank. The agent withdrew the cash and gave him the money. “I put it all in the bank two hundred and forty six dollars. Here, it drew a little interest.”

“Got any work around here?”

“Better get out of this part of the country Dev, lot of the men are pissed off. Dirty Mac went back to Mount Shasta and got his car from the Flying A. He’s on his way up to get ya’. I had him on a time job in Yreka working on Cop co property. He drugged this morning when I got word to him they sprung ya’. He’s been working’ seven days a week pretty much ever since you been in jail. You’re damn lucky you got off so cheap. You need to think about staying off the whiskey and just sippin’ a few beers here and there. You never did do very well on the stuff.”

“Yeah, Yeah. I didn’t mean to slash the chick man; she got in the way of Jesse.”

He pointed at the bar down the street.

“That’s his car. He’s been in there all morning. I told the cops you’d be leavin’ before the judge threw you out of town Dev, got me?”

“Yeah, Yeah.” The two parted ways and Mac was drunk when Dev walked in and sat down next to him. They were run out of that bar too when a local cop let the tender know who Dev was so they headed south and all the while the drunken Mac explained to his recently released friend how much money he made while he was sitting in the can. Mac stared out at the stars and finally started to snore. When he woke, the car was parked across the street from the Wagon Wheel Bar in Mount Shasta City. He was shivering and cold and curled up in the seat to sleep while Dev filled up on whiskey in a bar in a town that did not care who he was and his money was green enough.

The old ninety-nine swept through the small railroad town of Dunsmuir and Buddy’s Dodge roared onward toward Medford pulling the grade with ease without the trailer attached. Kenny slept on the other side. They had taken the families down to Black Rock and set the trailers up in the Sierra’s hitting a time job out of the trailer attached. Buddy and Barney and would climb to the heights of it in both labor and management, recognizing where they were before Buddy could proclaim it.

“So, Mt. Shasta,” he said and rubbed his eyes ambitiously wondering why he was there in the car with his friend when they had been at Herbs Joint a little while ago it seemed to him laughing and having a good time on payday night.

“Yeah,” said Buddy and kept tooting along slowly in the Dodge. “Let’s get a cup of coffee in the Wagon Wheel and then you drive awhile.” Buddy slid the car to a smooth stop and jumped out and left Kenny sitting still mostly asleep and not able yet to remember why they were nearly four hundred miles from where they had been drinking after work. My mind just ain’t working right yet, but I got an idea that Buddy is pulling something on me and I need to get in there and find out what it is. He tried to remember, but was just in one of those mental black out things one has when first waking and having had too much to drink just can’t remember shit. So he finished his smoke and tried to pull himself together enough to remember what it was that led them here. He looked at his watch. It was three a.m. He decided he would act nonchalant about the whole thing and it would come back to him, for he was almost certain Buddy would not tell him and never let him live it down if he caught on to his mental lapse. He would of course ride him about it forever and tell every Line hand in the country in laughing glee how they had gone north on a good drunk to see the Pep and Fancy and Kenny couldn’t remember why after sleeping his off for four hundred miles.

Kenny, being a very intelligent man who would later prove his ability in arenas not yet even imagined came from salt of the earth people who had clung to the line trade from the beginning. He had been plunged into the craft by his Father Barney and would climb to the heights of it in both labor and management, but right now he was just a thirty year old stouter than hell man sitting in Buddy’s Dodge with goose bumps from the cold air and the thought of facing Hazel when this was over and having no idea yet what it was about.”

“Christ, so what’s it about?” he mumbled and left the car giving it a big roll when he slammed the door and started in the bar.

Since the time Kenny and Buddy had met in Eureka and worked for Barney they had been the best of friends and this friendship would last for forty years, through thick and thin, good and bad times it would endure. It wasn’t just that Kenny had escaped death in the fall when the pole went down and saw his life flash before his eyes right before the more seasoned and smaller Buddy had put his life in peril by turning into the falling pole, swinging around and catching his friend, that it would always be an enduring friendship, it was just about two good men who would do for each other as needed throughout their lives.

Buddy was at the bar with Dev and dirty Mac. Several loggers were sitting right in line with the linerem and as soon as Kenny came through the door and saw Dev he remembered why he and his friend were headed north. Kenny sat down nearest the door and Buddy then Dev, Dirty Mac and the three big loggers. Kenny told Dev he shouldn’t have pulled the knife in Medford and asked him how long he’d been out of jail. A silence fell and Dev who was now pretty drunk on the beer fell to crying and explained he was sorry about Shain and ordered everyone a drink and changed his to whisky. It was Jesse he was after he announced and sobbed a little more while taking the money from Mac’s pile and paying the bartender. Mac summoned the courage to move the pile away from Dev and changed the subject.
bragging about the big double time he had made in Yreka all winter, seven days a week and all while waiting for Dev to get release. He was sort of sorry for seeing Dev get out because he still could ride the overtime for a couple more weeks till the job would end but needed to get Dev out of the jurisdiction of the local as per the business agent’s demand. Dev took the shot of Early Times and Kenny took a sip of his now frosty cocktail of Early Times and water. Buddy and Mac both drinking Seven-Seven raised their glasses, found a sort of toast to Pep, and wished him well. All lifted their glasses and the sentiment of Pep’s condition passed, Dev ordered another one and took the money from Mac's pile and figured he was so damned dough heavy from overtime he could afford a few especially since he himself had been locked up. This time Mac pocketed the wad up to his shirt pocket and scolded Dev for stealing his roll. The biggest logger sitting right next to Mac chirped in he would whip a man’s ass for fiddling with his money like that and called Mac a coward for not defending his funds any better. Buddy made a quiet remark to Kenny and giggled, the logger demanded to know what he said, and Dev said none of your business. Kenny spoke up louder and declared the phrase was “Why don’t you big Gorillas go back out in the woods for the night and climb a tree and hang around up there for awhile.” Mac being of good nature and not a fighter at all pulled the wad of money out of his pocket and ordered another round for the house and the bartender getting a little worried sat the ball bat back down next to the sawed off shot gun and got busy making the drinks. It was turning into a pretty good night for him and he hoped he didn’t have to beat anybody’s brains out or worse yet have to resort to the scatter gun to bring down an uprising that seemed to be brewing. He proceeded to stock the chest with beer from the back room in preparation for the next shift and came back to pour more and wash glasses all the while keeping one eye on the strange four he had never seen and the loggers he knew for years, knowing they were tough and ready for a good fight every Friday night after hitting the pay line. Things would get hot and then cool down, get a little hot again and then cool down. The tender warned one of the loggers to take it outside when it started for he was tired of replacing broken shit and last time he ran a man’s head through the juke box it flat ruined “Move It On Over” by Hank Williams and damn if when they pulled the unconscious man’s head from the machine it didn’t crank up on it’s own and start in blasting Frank Sinatra’s “It Only Happens When I Dance with You,” and by God he didn’t intend on the decent customers to be without their tunes just because of a bunch of drunk jackasses that can’t handle their booze. The line men and loggers didn’t fight. They drank on a few more hours and Kenny and Buddy went north to see the Pep and Fancy. Dev and Dirty Mac headed south for warmer weather like snowbirds.

Kenny, being a very intelligent man who would later prove his ability in arenas not yet even imagined, came from salt of the earth people who had clung to the Line trade from the beginning.

Roaring Twenties!

IBEW members broke into Weakley Hall in Vacaville for an evening of gambling, drinking, hustling and other activities too shady to mention. They were definitely dressed to kill, but it was all for a good cause: to raise money for the Solano County Chapter of the Electrical Worker Minority Caucus (EWMC).

“I’ve always wanted to dress up as a flapper and I got an opportunity to do that,” said IBEW 1245 Office Manager Tonya Alston, who helped organize the event, held April 11.

There were rumors the place might be raided by J. Edgar Hoover, but the feds never showed so nobody got pinched or ended the night in bracelets or the caboose. The event raised a lot of cabbage, about $2000 before expenses, which will allow the EWMC to send some new members to the national EWMC convention next January in New York.

See more photos at: http://bit.ly/1GtsBCQ.
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

To the Officers and Members and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 1245
Vacaville, California

Report on the Financial Statements. We have audited the accompanying statements of Financial Position arising from cash transactions as of December 31, 2014 and the related Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 1245 for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements. Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the United States of America. In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 1245 for the year ended December 31, 2014 and its financial position (cash basis) at December 31, 2014 in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the statements.

Report on Supplementary Information. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental information (shown on pages 12 to 25) is presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounts and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

San Bruno, California
March 30, 2015
DALMAS ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL NO. 1245 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS December 31, 2014

Assets

General Fund:
Bank of the West - checking accounts $1,153,525
Bank of the West - money market 1,394,032 2,547,557
Cash funds 5,350

Investments:
Merrill Lynch-Bank Deposit Program and other cash account 2,985,246
Mutual Funds 7,789,466
Franklin Income Fund 1,516,085
Merrill Lynch-Bank Deposit Program and other cash account 2,985,246
Investments:
Political Donation Fund- checking account 43,956
Assembly Democratic Caucus 1,000
Nebraska Senate Democrats 1,000
Committee to Elect Ross Miller 1,000
Committee to Elect Kate Marshall 1,000
Sprinkle for Assembly 1,000
Solano Democratic Central Committee 180
John Perez for Controller 13,600
Revolt Committee 2,400
COPE- San. Bay Labor Council award dinner 1,000
Gregg Fishman-SMUD Board of Directors 11,000
Committee for Better Wages 5,000
Bill Quick for Assembly 2,000
Mike McGuire for State Senate 2014 1,000
Committee to elect Bill Dodd for Assembly 6,000
Rob Bonnie for State Assembly 1,500
Kevin Mullin for Assembly 2,000
Tony Thurmond for Assembly 2,000
David Chiu for Assembly 2014 1,000
Brown for Governor 2014 27,200
Muriel Clift Committee to Elect 500
Friends to Elect Gary Wysocky 500
San Mateo Central Labor Council 1,750
Committee to elect Ross Miller 2,000
Committee to elect Kate Marshall 1,000
Friends for Flores 1,000
Committee to elect Rubin Khoury 1,000
Friends for Kim Wallin 1,000
Teresa Lowry for Nevada 1,000
Committee to Elect Mark Manendo 1,000
Genevieve Shiroma for SMUD Board 2014 1,000
Rob Keith for SMUD 2014 1,000
Friends of Hillary Schieve 1,000
John B. Gavin Campaign 500
Brent Weaner for City Council 500
Sullivan for City Council 500
Committee to Elect Paul McKenzie 500
Storefront Political Media-design and mailer for Damon Connolly 7,970
Storefront Political Media-Lompac Ad for Bob Ling 2,935

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities:
IBEW per capita portion of December receipts to forward $3,101,003
Vacation payable 1,485,189
Current Liabilities 1,795,192
Net Assets:
Unrestricted 14,678,681
Temporarily restricted: 43,956 14,722,637
Political Donation Fund 500
Total Liabilities and Net Assets $16,517,829

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL NO. 1245 STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS. POLITICAL DONATION FUND. TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED. For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

Receipts:
Portion of Local Union dues directly deposited to this fund 91,545

Cash balance, December 31, 2013 $140,344
Receipts: Portion of Local Union dues directly deposited to this fund 91,545

Cash and investments balance, beginning December 31, 2013 17,627,288

Receipts:
Local Union portion of receipts: “A” members’ dues $755,602
“BA” members’ dues 17,962,346
Initiation fees 51,796
Retirement fees 8,679
Storefront Political Media-design and mailer for Damon Connolly 7,970
Storefront Political Media-Lompac Ad for Bob Ling 2,935

Cash and investments balance, beginning December 31, 2013 17,627,288

July – September 2015
Reimbursements to General Fund:  
Interest and investment income 378,897

Refunds and reimbursements:  
Union Shopper 23,628
Other receipts 1,546

Energy Workers Inc. improvement loan payments:  
Principal 170,993
Interest 6,694
Merger of Local 2311 33,905
Automobiles sales 14,891 4,654,659

International portion of receipts:  
“KA” members per capita 834,830
“BA” members per capita 2,723,951

December 31, 2014, Details in D.B.A.F. fees 1,455

Equipment rental 30,741
Contra Costa C.L.C. 11,700
Kern / Inyo / Mono 1,350

Staff expenses:  
Research and Education:  
Bank charges 33,755
Utility reporter 129,148
Data processing 18,604
Equipment rental 30,741

Miscellaneous 29,623
Bank charges 33,755
Utility Reporter

Furniture and equipment purchases 346,121
Storage 5,234 1,386,344

Committee salaries and expenses:  
Executive Board meetings 51,940 42,955 94,895
Advisory Council 37,826 78,476 116,302
Trustee Committee 10,335 6,139 16,474
Safety Summit 13,254 13,254
Review Committee 21,577 6,868 28,445
Safety Committee 9,859 42,382
Shop Steward expenses 164,986 1,171,487 336,642
Other committees 65,440 252,216 318,766
Labor Management 14,735 14,735
Organizing 1,516 6,139 11,650
Grievance/FF/LIC 3,139 8,870 12,009

Various Other Committees:  
Outside Line 171,484 3,193 174,677
Davey Tree 2,380 752 2,052
Retirees 11,938 11,938
Central Labor 671 671
City of Healdsburg 845 845
Outside conference 995 995
Membership development 140,038 143,285 283,323
Eaton Cooper 504 625 1,129
Peer to peer 8,434 4,554 12,988
Utility Tree 142 142
Frontier committee 9,908 2,188 12,096
Paradise 99 99
Wells Rural Elect. 900 900
Sunoptics 11,471 13,049 24,520
City of Lodi 392 392
City of Lompoc 5,033 1,362 6,395
Dyneex 34,008 6,408 40,476
San Isidro - Sierra Rural 2,678 88 2,766
Adsorbreda 132 132
Borden Lighting 74 74
Jacks Technology 198 198
City of Williams 106 106
Mt. Wheeler 1,401 87 1,488
Lockheed Martin 4,579 723 5,302
Local Union Election 33 33
City of Grudgey 317 317
Trees Inc. 340 509 849
Union Shopper 55,070 6,688 61,758
City of Ukiah 37 37
City of Ukiah Trans Canada 889 889
Synergy 55 55
Members training / education 13,920 13,920
Mid American 254,897 254,897
Hold The Pull 180,614 75,665 256,279
Foster Wheeler 350 350
Regional Transit gen neg 1,812 1,812
City of Santa Clara 4,082 3,673 7,755
Nevada 13 13
Liberty / Calpico 9,771 20,463 30,234
USBR 204 204
WAPA 84 84
SF Shell Shock 9,688 9,688
Wright Tree 72 72
Veterans Club 5,701 22,862 28,563
PUC 243 243
735,019 665,682 1,400,701

P&G & Negotiation Committees:  
Departmental:  
Arbitration 731 64,569 65,300
Misc Physical 30 30
Negotiations 12,826 656,946 719,772
Ad Hoc 9,064 1,937 11,001
Meal Committee 398 398
Exhibit 120 120
Benefits negotiations 8,290 8,290
T & R 2,699 3,109 5,808
Sysop 10,317 10,317
Scada 3,295 3,295
GSI 3,260 3,260
Misc.Clerical Mlg 3,573 1,621 5,194
Lines of Progression 2,203 2,203
Diyalo Canyon 1,249 60 1,309
Employee orientation 18,252 3,687 21,949
Call Center 642 642

Gas Operations 2,586 2,586
Benefits 213 213
T-Men 128 128
212 Committee 22,281 3,987 26,268
Helicopter 599 599
Clerical Focus Group 1,503 1,503
Job Bidding 6,277 6,277
T & D 10,466 1,181 11,647
TSO 29,555 6,688 36,243
Tech 712 712
Rubber Glove 108 108
Hydro/SS. op. 109 109

181,627 792,322 973,949

Membership expenses:  
Supplies - Intl. 4,397
Supplies - Local 17,872
Membership fees 41,429
Labor Day Picnic 800
Union Shopper 55,070
Linemen Rodeo 94,585
City Shoot BB 28,981
Soccer tournament 18,178
Motorcycle Rally 197
Translation to Spanish 512
Softball Tournament (531)
Fishing trip 350
Golf tournament (387)
266,429

Membership benefits:  
Group life insurance 93,322
Unit drawing award 600
Individual drawing award 600
Service award dinners 114,093
Flowers/donations/bibles 117
Social fund 248,625

Payroll taxes:  
Employee portion:  
U.S. income tax withheld (2,454,787)
FICA withheld (676,556)
California income tax withheld (711,633)
SDI withheld (71,526)
U.S. income tax forward 2,454,787
FICA forward 676,556
California income tax forward 711,633
SDI forward 71,526

Local Union’s portion:  
Unions 557,566
California Unemployment 24,075
U.S.Unemployment 9,728
710,330

Employee benefits:  
Health and Welfare plans 2,759,603
Group life insurance 120,298
Pension plan 1,761,533
Other costs, pension plans 35,783
7,677,217

Other disbursements:  
Legal fees 263,041
Hall rentals 113,298
Workmen’s compensation insurance 148,649
Refunds 7,472
Flowers/donations/bibles 24,733
Law clerk 5,987
CCA Works 19,218
Miscellaneous taxes 371
Insurance - auto 51,366
Insurance - Bonds 48,948
Insurance - professional liability 30,051
Audit fees 36,100
Charitable donations 16,345
Miscellaneous fees 2,500
Sales tax 7,023
UCC-7 4,714
Community Unit Fund 37,650
Injured Workers Fund 657

35,783 7,677,217

14,441,176

Total Disbursements 30,357,233

WHAT IS A GRIEVANCE?

WELL, I GOT A BEEF OR TWO...

NOT EVERY COMPLAINT IS A GRIEVANCE, BUT IF YOU WERE TREATED WRONG OR DIFFERENTLY, SEE YOUR STEWARD.

REMEMBER, MANAGEMENT DOESN'T HAVE TO TELL YOU YOUR RIGHTS. THAT'S WHY WE NEED THE UNION...AND THE CONTRACT.

WHAT IF THE BOSS WANTS ME TO DO SOME WORK THAT VIOLATES THE CONTRACT?

DO THE WORK -- AS LONG AS IT'S SAFE -- AND TALK TO A STEWARD LATER TO SEE IF THE ISSUE CAN BE GRIEVED.

I WAS WAITING FOR THE CALL, SO THEY GOTTA PAY ME.

YOU'RE DREAMING.

NOPE, I'M GRIEVING. THE COMPANY VIOLATED THE CONTRACT, AND THERE'S A REMEDY. THAT'S THE KEY TO A GRIEVANCE.

HE'LL TALK TO EVERYONE INVOLVED, INCLUDING THE BOSS. JUST BE HONEST, THERE'S PAPERWORK AND DEADLINES, BUT THE UNION WILL HAVE YOUR BACK.

MANAGEMENT MAY TRY TO DRAG ITS FEET, BUT YOUR STEWARD WILL FOLLOW THROUGH ON ANY VALID GRIEVANCE. THAT'S HOW THE UNION PROTECTS YOUR RIGHTS.