PG&E GC hydro crews work to repair a damaged flume near Nevada City. Story on page 20.

Photo by John Storey
Taking Heat
Hot Weather and Hot Politics Challenge the Grid

I t’s summer, and it is hot. As you know better than anyone, this time of year can be incredibly taxing on both the grid and our members. We have experienced heat wave after heat wave this year, all across the west. It doesn’t matter where you live: Sacramento, Reno, Fresno, San Francisco and Oakland have all set new all-time high temperature records. San Diego County even broke its all-time high temperature at an unheard-of 124 degrees.

Demand for power increased in tandem — the California Independent System Operator (the agency primarily responsible for managing the grid) has reported some of the highest usage in decades.

In the face of this unprecedented demand on the system and on you, one thing is clear: you delivered. Power delivery has been smooth and steady across the board — a literal lifesaver for the millions of people relying on air conditioning in triple digit heat. There have been a number of outages for short periods of time, but no particularly lengthy or significant disruptions. This success is a reflection of your skill and dedication as professionals. And it also serves as a vital reminder of the continued importance of natural gas in meeting California’s needs, even as the state transitions to more renewable sources.

For example, despite the growth of solar power, available solar energy on the grid peaked at roughly 10,000 megawatts during one recent heat wave, which amounts to around 22 percent of the needed peak supply. Natural gas provided approximately 50 percent of the needed power, ensuring reliable and affordable delivery.

This is important to note as politicians in Sacramento move fast towards phasing out natural gas entirely. Senate Bill 100, which has already passed the state Senate and two crucial committees in the Assembly, would require utilities to replace natural gas with renewable energy sources even faster than is currently scheduled. California utilities would have to get 50% of electricity from carbon-neutral sources by 2026 instead of 2030, and 60% by 2030. By 2045, natural gas would not be permitted as a power source in the state.

I have real concerns about what this would mean for Californians and for our members. A hasty transition could shock our economy and cost jobs. And it would hit lower-income consumers harder than the wealthy, who tend to live in cooler coastal climates and are less sensitive to cost.

Had we not had access to natural gas this summer, grid power would have been purchased to keep things cool. Grid power is frequently generated from coal — a far dirtier fuel that increases greenhouse emissions, as well as the health problems that come with them.

Together with our allies, Local 1245 is responding to this bill and underlining the crucial role our gas workers play in delivering safe and affordable power. The transition to renewable energy is important in fighting climate change and curbing pollution, but it can be managed in a way that supports families and protects our jobs. My first priority is the economic security of our members, and we are approaching this issue accordingly.

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Our phone number is (707) 452-2700.
It’s Classified: Local 1245 Members Manufacture High-Tech Marine Systems Equipment at Northrop Grumman

Only the best and brightest manufacturing workers have what it takes to assemble high-tech equipment at Northrop Grumman, one of the largest defense contractors in the world. With customers like NASA, the US Air Force, the Marines and the Navy, Northrop Grumman doesn’t just produce run-of-the-mill security products; their components are frequently used in war ships, aircraft, submarines and spacecraft, which means they must be built to withstand some of the most inhospitable environments in the universe.

IBEW 1245 is proud to represent the accomplished manufacturing workers at Northrop Grumman Marine Systems in Sunnyvale, CA.** These members work diligently to assemble missile launch systems, propulsion systems and power generation systems for naval submarines and surface ships. These skilled and meticulous workers take pride in their ability to manufacture cutting edge of defense and security environments in the universe.

**Marine Systems Equipment at Northrop Grumman

“We Take Our Job Seriously”

IBEW 1245 member Elvira Bernal works as an Electrical Assembler at Northrop’s Sunnyvale plant, where she and her team fabricate heavy-duty cables for submarines and aircraft carriers. These cables transmit information to the different parts of the boat, and if they fail, the entire ship could be in jeopardy – so not only must they be fully functional, but they also must be able to withstand the elements of the deep, unforgiving ocean.

“We have to take every effort to make sure they’re perfect. They're going to be in these units for 30, 40 maybe even 50 years, so we have to make them right, and we have to make them right the first time,” said Bernal. “We take pride in the work that we do. We know how important it is for the defense and safety of anyone who is at sea. We take our job very seriously.”

Local 1245 also represents the electricians that maintain and repair the tools and equipment used to craft these component parts.

“Any machine that has electrical problems, our crew takes care of it,” said Machine Tool Electrician John Coronel. “We troubleshoot it, we fix it, we order new parts if we need to.”

Coronel, who has worked at Northrop for 42 years — first as a machinist, then in construction, and now as an electrician — has watched the tools and technologies change quite a bit over the decades. It’s clear that he thoroughly enjoys the fact that his job gives him hands-on opportunities with such innovative, high-end equipment.

“These new Siemen’s controllers, they’re really top-of-the-line stuff,” he said. “It’s a joy to be able to work with it and learn it.”

The Northrop team, formerly members of IBEW 2131, appreciate the fact that they have the backing of IBEW 1245 on the job.

“I'm very proud to be a union member. My father was in a union, and my grandfather, and my brothers and sisters at one time were in a union as well. I wear my [IBEW] sweatshirt around a lot, and wherever I go, people come up to me and say, 'hey, sister!'” said Bernal, who serves as the recorder for the manufacturing unit of IBEW 1245. “We see everyone as our brothers and sisters, which makes you feel good. We get good wages for what we do, and we're protected, which is something a lot of people don't have these days. I truly love the union.”

“Much of what goes on at Northrop Grumman is classified, and without the necessary security clearance, the Utility Reporter was unable to venture inside the plant.

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director

IMPORTANT!

Update your contact info online

The times, they are a-changing, and the way we communicate is changing as well. Email, cell phones and text messages are quickly replacing land lines and paper mail, and in order to ensure that the union is able to reach you in the quickest and most effective way possible, we need to have your current, personal email address and personal cell phone number on file.

We are urging each and every member to log on to our secure web portal right away to make sure that the union has all your current personal contact info – particularly your personal email address and cell phone number – correct in our files. It only takes a few minutes, and can be done from any computer, tablet or smart phone with internet access.

If you prefer to update your info over the phone, you can call the front desk at 707 452 2700 during regular business hours and our staff will be happy to help you. You can also contact your Business Rep to request a contact info update card.

Log on at www.ibew1245.com/update-contact-info

Your username is your Union card number, and if you’ve never logged in before, your initial password is your last name and the last four digits of your SSN (you’ll be prompted to change your password upon logging in for the first time).
We are proud to announce that IBEW 1245 members Jordan Chene, Anthony Humbert and Nick Smith of PG&E came in First Place Overall at the National Sisterhood United for Journeyman Linemen's Benefit Rodeo in Clearfield, PA on June 17, 2017. The boys from Bakersfield also came in first place in two events, the Team Speed Climb and the Team Hurt Man Rescue, and placed second in the Team Arm Change Out and the Team Hot Arm.

Additionally, Nick Smith won the individual speed climb event and the individual hurt man rescue event, and received the overall Best Lineman award.

Congrats to our brothers from Bakersfield!

— Mark Rolow, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Local 1245 Members Win Big at APPA Rodeo

IBEW Local 1245 members have once again proved they’re among the best of the best at this year’s American Public Power Association (APPA) Rodeo in San Antonio, TX. Greg Frizell of Sacramento Municipal Utility District came in 1st Place Overall in the Apprentice Division, while Anthony Ormonde, Dustin Krieger, and Josh Klikna of Turlock Irrigation District came in 3rd Place Overall in the Journeyman Division.

The SMUD Apprentices definitely demonstrated their prowess, placing in...
IBEW 1245 members from PG&E demonstrated their prowess at the 2017 International Utility Locate Rodeo in Fort Worth, Texas. This was just the second time that they've competed at this level, and they proved unequivocally that they are a force to be reckoned with.

Francisco Garcia came in 1st Place Overall in the Gas division, while Efrain Nava came in 2nd Overall in the Power division. Our members also dominated some of the toughest events. In the Spray Smart Hot Lap, Efrain Nava came in 1st, and Francisco Garcia came in 3rd; and in the “Locate from Hell” competition, Nava once again came in first, and Billy Dawley came in 3rd.

A heartfelt congrats to our outstanding competitors!

Nearly every event in that division. Brad Powell came in 2nd in the Insulator Changeout and 3rd in the Hurtman Rescue, Tyler Dewitt came in 3rd in the Obstacle Course, and Greg Frizell came in 1st in the Written Test.

In the Journeyman Division, Matt Wilson, Greg Baird, and Cayleb Bowman from SMUD placed 3rd in the Crossarm Changeout and 2nd in the Hurtman Rescue. Anthony Ormonde, Dustin Krieger, and Josh Kikina came in 1st in the Crossarm Changeout, and Richard Hall, Keno Grigsby, and Chris Fukui came in 3rd in the Tie event.

Congrats to all who competed, and thank you for continuing to represent Local 1245.

IBEW 1245 members from PG&E display their winnings at the 2017 International Utility Locate Rodeo.

Photo via PG&E
PG&E Execs Meet with Local 1245 Staff to Discuss Competitive Challenges

PG&E Chief Executive Officer Geisha J. Williams, Chief Operating Officer Nick Stavropoulos and Executive Chair Tony Earley, along with Senior Director of Labor Relations Robert Joga and Vice President of Human Resources Mary King, joined a group of IBEW 1245 business reps and staffers for a candid discussion on the future of the utility industry on May 17, 2017.

“We have the three highest leaders of PG&E here to talk vision, challenges, responses, and where we can work together,” Local 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell told the union staffers as he introduced the executives.

Williams opened up the conversation with a detailed analysis of the major factors that are contributing to the widespread changes in the utility industry. She explained how new state laws are requiring California utilities to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and also pointed out that new energy technology is cropping up left and right, which is both a cause and effect of the surge in customer demand for more choices.

“We have policy that dictates it, we have the tech that enables it, and we have the customers that want it. Those three things are what are driving the changes we’re seeing in the industry,” said Williams.

Stavropoulos explained some of the steps that PG&E is taking to remain competitive in this rapidly changing utility environment, including exploring new projects, such as the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in California.

“The PUC gave us a gift of letting us show what we can do to efficiently install 7,500 chargers across our service territory,” he said. “We’re working hard to put in place an end-to-end process to install those charging stations as efficiently as possible with the highest level of customer satisfaction. When we’re done with 7,500, we want to build 75,000 more!”

The executives touched on a number of other topics, including the ever-present need for gas pipeline safety improvements and the ongoing effort to upgrade to new state-of-the-art systems. They also discussed more forward-thinking ways to reduce the carbon footprint, including things like incorporating biomethane into the pipeline, and capturing and utilizing agricultural waste gas. They didn’t shy away from difficult topics, such as the rise in customer rates, the hard decisions being made in the name of affordability, and the potential for major shifts in the direction of the company in the near future.

Likewise, the union staff held the executives’ feet to the fire with a number of probing questions. They pushed back when the execs articulated a position that was counter to the union’s priorities, and spoke up when they thought the company could be doing more in certain areas. Both sides left the meeting feeling positive about the joint effort between the union and the company as a critical element to addressing the “competitive challenges” we’re seeing now and will likely continue to encounter for decades to come.

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director
PGE President and COO Nick Stavropoulos announced that PGE employees and IBEW 1245 members Michael Garcia and Miguel Hernandez received a Meritorious Service Award from the American Gas Association in recognition for heroic actions taken to save the life of a customer during a house fire in San Jose on December 16, 2016.

According to the citation, Garcia and Hernandez were performing routine gas maintenance when they saw smoke coming from a home and heard a person calling for help. They grabbed a fire extinguisher and went inside the home and rescued the occupant who was an elderly man who had fallen asleep and left the stove on. After leaving the person with neighbors, Garcia and Hernandez ran to adjacent homes to warn residents of the fire prior to the arrival of firefighters. Their quick action undoubtedly saved the life of the elderly person and prevented potential harm to others.

The recognition and award was given by the American Gas Association at an awards ceremony held in Orlando, Florida on May 2. Garcia and Hernandez traveled to Orlando to receive their recognition and also shared a $1,000 cash award. IBEW Local 1245 wishes to congratulate brothers Garcia and Hernandez and praise them for their quick and decisive action.

Recognition for exceptional action goes out to PGE gas employees and IBEW members Gene Lindsay, Clinton Grich and Michael Musgrove, who received the PG&E Britton Certificate and Britton Bronze Awards.

Lindsay, a Gas Working Foreman B, received the Britton Certificate for actions taken in warning residents to evacuate a burning home. Grich, Working Foreman B, and Musgrove, Construction Operator, were recognized with the Bronze Award for performing CPR on an unresponsive person at a Manteca rest stop. Read the full story at http://ibew1245.com/2017/04/13/pge-gas-crew-performs-cpr-on-unconscious-man-at-rest-stop/.

The Britton Awards are named for PGE’s first president, John Britton, and are given to individuals who display exceptional courage, initiative and resourcefulness in an emergency.

— Rich Lane, IBEW 1245 Business Representative

Edison Electric Institute Commends PG&E for Storm Restoration Work

During its annual convention in Boston, the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) awarded PG&E with its 2017 Emergency Recovery Award, specifically in regards to the highly efficient and rapid response during the severe winter storms that walloped California earlier this year. EEI’s Emergency Recovery Award recognizes utilities that have taken extraordinary efforts to restore power in times of crisis.

“While everyone else was hunkered down, waiting for the storms to pass, our members were working around the clock, in rain, sleet, snow and hail, to bring the power back on for millions of California residents,” said DEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. “This past winter was the worst one we’ve seen in 91 years, but the hard-working men and women of Local 1245 were unfazed; they simply did what they had to do. We are incredibly proud of the work that our members at PGE accomplished this past winter, and we’re pleased to see them being recognized by the EEI.”

According to PG&E, the utility experienced a record number of storms, with the highest recorded impact to customers in the past nine years. Extreme flooding, high winds, mudslides, road closures and other storm-related damage made restoration work extremely challenging, but crews succeeded in restoring power to more than two million customers, generally in 24 hours or less.

The EEI is the association that represents all U.S. investor-owned electric companies. This is PG&E’s fifth recovery or assistance award from EEI in the past 10 years. Dalzell joined PGE CEO Geisha Williams to accept the EEI award in Boston on June 13.

An Important Message from your Employer

PG&E Benefits Dependent Verification

At PG&E, we strive to provide you and your family members with competitive and affordable health care coverage. An important part of controlling health care costs is ensuring that our roster for eligible employees, retirees and dependents is accurate and up-to-date.

To help ensure that every PG&E health care plan enrollee who receives benefits is eligible for those benefits, PG&E is working with Mercer to verify eligibility of the dependents covered under our health care plans.

From July 24 – September 1, if you are covering dependents under PG&E’s health care plans, you will be asked to submit the necessary documentation for the enrolled dependents, which may include:

• Valid legal or religious marriage certificate
• State-, Country- or City-issued certificate of domestic partnership
• Child’s legal or hospital birth certificate
• Household utility bill

During the verification period, you can remove ineligible dependents without having to repay claims or premium costs.

Proof of eligibility for each dependent must be submitted by September 1, 2017. If required documentation is not received for your dependents, they will be removed from coverage as of October 1, 2017.

Our goal is to verify all dependents without disrupting coverage for those who are eligible. No action is required now; however, to ensure your family’s benefits coverage is not disrupted, we recommend that you locate the required documentation now. Starting July 24, you’ll be able to upload your documentation via secure portal, fax or mail. Mercer will send you additional details and instructions in a dependent eligibility verification packet in the next few weeks.

For more information and a list of frequently asked questions, visit the homepage of mypgebenefits.com.

Local 1245 Members Keep California Cool During Heat Wave

After enduring the wettest, most storm-ridden winter in the better part of a century, California is now facing an equally taxing summer season. Many parts of the state saw some of the highest temperatures ever recorded, and the number of heat-related power outages soared. In PG&E’s jurisdiction, around 270,000 customers lost power due to the heat — but fortunately, our members were out in force, doing what they’ve been trained to do. These hard-working men and women braved triple-digit temperatures to quickly address more than 1,100 power outages, providing top-notch service to the customers that rely on them.

We’re incredibly proud to represent such talented and dedicated utility workers. Without their expertise and tireless work ethic, hundreds of thousands of Californians would have been left without electricity for far too long, and that becomes incredibly dangerous during a heat wave. The work that Local 1245 members do is nothing short of life-saving, and they continue to prove that our union is second to none in terms of sheer talent and commitment. A heartfelt thank you to our members for all that you do.

— Tom Dalzell, IBEW 1245 Business Manager
The 3rd Annual Gas Construction/Locate & Mark Rodeo, co-sponsored by IBEW 1245 and PG&E, took place on May 20, 2017 at PG&E’s Livermore training facility. The day kicked off with a wonderful rendition of the National Anthem, sung by Oakland’s own Gas Crew Leader Rivers Pugh.

As the Locate group began the “Locate from Hell” event, the Gas Construction teams took to the field. Families cheered on their loved ones as they competed in the pipe cut, meter build, service run and the hand dig events. There is nothing quite like hearing a wife yell to her husband to calm down and breathe. It was a great family-friendly day, with plenty to do for the kids, including a rock climbing wall, bull riding, face painting and more.

The times for each of the four events were added together in order to determine the position for the final event, the all-important relay. The relay had six different stations – truck backing; place egg in bowl using spoon at the end of bucket; retrieve and put three balls into garbage can with a bucket of a mini excavator; pipe squeeze; regulator bypass; and finally, a no-hands drinking of a water cup.

The “90 Gunners” came in first in the two-person team category. The “Wild Hogs” came in first in the four-person team category.

The “Wild Hogs” came in first in the four-person team category.

The “90 Gunners” came in first in the two-person team category.
A heartfelt congrats to all the winners:

**Gas Construction**

**Four-Person Team Category**
- **First Place:** Wild Hogs (Brian Reome, Russell Higgins, Mike Moore, Dave Silva, Tom Wooten)
- **Second Place:** Fresno GC Gas Hogs (Aaron Hatcher, Rick Reyes, Ricardo Chavez, Anthony Robles, Julio Martinez)

**Two-Person Team Category**
- **First Place:** The 90 Gunners (Shaun Mahanay, Kyle Hill)
- **Second Place:** Quiet Riot (Jason Visinoni, Brad Husa)

**Locate & Mark**

- **Overall Winner:** Efrain Nava, Gas Compliance Rep, Yosemite division
- **Overall Runner-up:** Bill Dawley, Utility Worker, Sacramento
- **Electric Winner:** Efrain Nava, Gas Compliance Rep, Yosemite division
- **Electric Runner-up:** Thomas Gongora, Gas Compliance Rep, Fresno division
- **Gas Winner:** Efrain Nava, Gas Compliance Rep, Yosemite division
- **Gas Runner-up:** Ryan Barrameda, Gas Compliance Rep, East Bay division
- **LFH Winner:** Francisco Garcia, Gas Compliance Rep, Central Coast division
- **LFH Runner-up:** Trevor Robertson, Sr. Gas Compliance Rep, East Bay division

The top two Gas Construction teams from both the two-person and four-person categories will compete in the National Gas Rodeo in Denver, August 24-26. The top four finishers from the Locate event — Efrain Nava, Bill Dawley, Ryan Barrameda and Francisco García — competed in their own National event in Dallas, June 22–June 24. See page 5.

— Lou Mennel, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

*Photos by John Storey*
Members Ratify New Agreement at SMUD

After 12 weeks of negotiations and two weeks of educational meetings with IBEW 1245 members, the membership at Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) ratified a new four-year agreement on June 21, 2017. A total of 469 votes were counted (85% of the membership cast ballots), and the agreement was overwhelmingly approved, with 94.7% voting yes to 5.3% No.

The new agreement will be in effect from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2021, and includes notable wage increases each year. In 2018, members will receive a lump sum of 6% of their annual salary; in 2019, they will receive a lump sum of 6% of their annual salary; in 2020 they will receive a 3.25% wage increase plus 4% lump sum payments will be based on the employees’ choice during open enrollment, and options include cash payout, deferred compensation (401K and/or 457B), HSA and FSA. Class “A” premium will be increased to $1.00 an hour, and On Call pay will be increased to three hours a day for all Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays. In 2019, an additional $25 a month will be added to each “Year of Service” category, and in 2021, another $25 per month will be added to each “Year of Service” category.

The agreement also includes an additional 401K Deferred Compensation Match, increased from $330,000 a year to $550,000 a year by 2021. Members will have new options for medical coverage, including High/Low HMO, high deductible health plan, dental and vision buy-up plans. The cost share by employee will increase from 9% to 12.5% over the term of the agreement.

The new CBA contains up to five years of additional supplemental sick leave hours per year, capped for the term of the contract. Members now have nine additional supplemental sick leave hours per year, bringing the total of sick leave hours from 56 to 65 hours. The second shift differential increased from 9% to 12.5%, and employees with 25 years or more of service received an additional week of vacation time. Employees with 25 years or more of service received an additional week of vacation time. The agreement also includes enhanced bereavement pay and revised language to include domestic partners, grandparents, in-laws, and anyone in a step relationship, legal guardian or legal ward.

The negotiations were conducted in collaboration with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) Local 1414 and Operators Engineers (OE) Local 3. Just like Northrop Grumman and Jacobs Technology, the three unions that represent workers at the facility get together and bargain with the company. Negotiations took place last fall, and the explanation/ratification vote took place on May 30, 2017. A total of 15 workers — including all seven IBEW members employed at the facility — attended the ratification meeting, and all 15 voted yes to approve the new CBA.

The new agreement also includes an additional 401K Deferred Compensation Match, increased from $330,000 a year to $550,000 a year by 2021. Members will have new options for medical coverage, including High/Low HMO, high deductible health plan, dental and vision buy-up plans. The cost share by employee will increase from 9% to 12.5% over the term of the agreement.

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New Agreement Ratified at National Aerospace Solutions

Union members at National Aerospace Solutions (NAS) ratified a new four-year agreement, which went into effect July 1, 2017 and will remain active until June 30, 2021.

The negotiations were conducted in collaboration with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) Local 1414 and Operators Engineers (OE) Local 3. Just like Northrop Grumman and Jacobs Technology, the three unions that represent workers at the facility get together and bargain with the company. Negotiations took place last fall, and the explanation/ratification vote took place on May 30, 2017. A total of 15 workers — including all seven IBEW members employed at the facility — attended the ratification meeting, and all 15 voted yes to approve the new CBA.

The four-year contract includes a 3% General Wage Increase during each year of the contract. Members now have nine additional supplemental sick leave hours per year, bringing the total of sick leave hours from 56 to 65 hours. The second shift differential increased from 9% to 12.5%, and employees with 25 years or more of service received an additional week of vacation time. The agreement also includes enhanced bereavement pay and revised language to include domestic partners, grandparents, in-laws, and anyone in a step relationship, legal guardian or legal ward.

The bargaining committee consisted of two representatives from each union: IBEW 1245 Business Rep Cruz Serna and Shop Steward Michael Fleming; IAM Business Rep Pedro Mendez and Shop Steward Jose Encalade; and OE3 Business Rep Kenneth Holfback and Shop Steward Todd Fuller.

— Cruz Serna, IBEW 1245 Business Rep
The Best Defense is a Strong Offense

“Fighting Right to Work” Summit prepares unions for battle

T here’s absolutely nothing right about so-called “Right to Work.” It’s dangerous, it’s anti-union, and it has the potential to be cataclysmic for the middle class.

Right to Work is a deceptively named policy idea that has been carefully crafted and cultivated by a powerful group of CEOs and their highly-paid lobbyists. Simply put, Right to Work laws swiftly do away with union security agreements, more commonly referred to as closed shops, or union shops. While proponents of Right to Work like to claim that these laws are about so-called “worker freedom,” we know the real truth — Right to Work is designed to dismantle unions, slash wages, eliminate workplace protections and devastate the middle class — enabling ultra-wealthy CEOs and corporations to get even richer at the expense of working families.

Currently, 28 states already have Right to Work laws on the books. Not surprisingly, those states have lower rates of union membership — but they also have lower wages, fewer benefits, higher workplace mortality rates and higher poverty rates. That’s because unions set the standard for the middle class, and when they are weakened, all workers pay the price.

Up until recently, Right to Work proponents have been enacting these policies state-by-state. But now, they’ve broadened their scope, and are seeking to make Right to Work the law of the land. With a case pending in the US Supreme Court that could do away with union security agreements in the public sector, and legislation in Congress that could do the same in the private sector, there’s a strong chance that closed shops will soon be a thing of the past.

Time For Action

With these very real threats on the horizon, each and every union must immediately begin preparing to face Right to Work head-on. Local 1245 knows that the best defense is a good offense, which is why staff organizers Fred Ross and Eileen Purcell reached out to the California Labor Federation earlier this year, urging them to bring together unions big and small to start strategizing and planning for the future.

The Labor Federation quickly organized a day-long summit, and invited unions from California as well as several neighboring states to join. What began as a small gathering quickly grew into a massive conference of over 800 delegates from Sacramento Regional Transit, union members from several different public sector properties, accompanied by four union staffs.

Survive and Thrive

The summit kicked off with an eye-opening plenary session that detailed the growing threats to unions. The overview was both sobering and motivating.

“I was shocked to hear what the actual effects are to those who have had their state governments force Right to Work policies on them,” said 17-year IBEW Local 1245 member Karri Daves, who works at Modesto Irrigation District. “The anti-union forces are organized, well-resourced and focused — we need to be proactive and fight back, educating our co-workers about the importance of the Union,” said Local 1245 member Bill Stockman from the City of Vallejo.

The first half of the summit was filled with presentations from union leaders who are already organizing in environments without union security agreements. Despite the overwhelming challenges, these unions are still growing and fighting for their members. They shared their very inspiring success stories, proving that unions can persevere and even flourish in a Right to Work environment, but it takes a lot of hard work, and a well-executed plan.

In the afternoon, the summit attendees chose between eight fascinating and engaging workshops, with topics ranging from the use of technology in organizing, to bargaining, to messaging and leadership recruitment. Staff Organizer Fred Ross, who helped to coordinate the summit, served as a panelist at the leader recruitment and training workshop, where he discussed Local 1245’s innovative Organizing Steward program. All of the workshops highlighted best practices from unions that are using cutting-edge tactics to grow power in an otherwise hostile, anti-worker environment. Each and every presenter laid out his or her own ideas to build a new Labor Movement that can survive and thrive, with or without union security agreements.

Local 1245 Organizing Steward Serena Moore, who works at SMUD, was particularly struck by the aspect of messaging. She observed that the words we choose can make a huge difference in our ability to help both members and others understand the importance of keeping unions strong.

“We need to stop using [our opponent’s] language — ‘Right to Work.’ We have to come up with something that more accurately describes what they’re trying to do to the working class … and that’s still catchry,” said Moss.

Fighting Right to Work

The delegation from Local 1245 left the summit with the understanding that there’s a lot of work ahead, and it won’t be easy, but they are fully committed to doing whatever it takes — and that starts with educating their co-workers every chance they get.

“I understand overwhelmed with all the knowledge that was presented and the tasks we have before us,” Daves said a few days after returning from the conference. “But I’ve already had opportunities to talk to our members about what I learned.”

“I learned how important it is for us to get all members on board, so we don’t lose what we have negotiated for years,” said 27-year member Denise Miller, who also works at MID. “I plan to let every member know the importance of fighting Right to Work.”

“I understand the importance of our organizing committee members having one-on-one conversations with each of their co-workers about the union difference and the Right to Work threat,” said Stockman. “[We need] special focus on our younger members who don’t understand fully the protection and voice unionization provides.”

“I plan to once again explain to others in my shop how beneficial it is to stay informed and not to become fragmented,” said 16-year IBEW 1245 member Tom Flaners from Sacramento Regional Transit.

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director

To learn more and get involved in the fight against Right to Work, contact the IBEW 1245 Organizing team at organizers@ibew1245.com.
When a failing breaker was detected at Pine Nut Substation in Gardnerville, NV, a crew from NV Energy was tasked with getting to the bottom of the issue.

“This is a 1251 breaker … and there’s a super hot spot on the source side,” said Robert Baffrey, Substation Foreman. “So we have to de-energize the entire substation and that one phase of the line, in order to get up there safely, take it apart and see if we can find why it’s hot. We’re probably going to end up bypassing the switch with a jumper.”

“These switches really aren’t rated for this application; they’re really made for regulators,” Baffrey explained. “They were put in years ago, and the company has plans to replace all the disconnects on the 1251 and the 1253. So this is sort of a band-aid to get us through until we get all those switches in.”

While the job itself wasn’t particularly challenging, getting all of the circuits fed from other substations proved to be a bit time-consuming.

“The load site out of here is quite busy, with two different circuits and real tight clearances, so that’s why we’re not taking any chances,” said Baffrey.

“There’s a lot of good things about the union. The first thing that obviously comes to my mind is wages, and benefit protection. I worked at a non-union outfit before, and the company would come in and make changes, and we didn’t have any say in it whatsoever. But here at NV Energy, we have a say. That makes me feel a lot more secure.”

— Robert Baffrey, NV Energy Substation Foreman
New Agreement Ratified at City of Fernley

IBEW 1245 members at the City of Fernley have overwhelmingly ratified a new one-year agreement, by a vote of 13-1. The agreement, which has been accepted by the City Council, includes a 2% General Wage Increase (active on anniversary date), an increase in callout compensation from 1.5x to 2x, and an increase in sick leave conversion to vacation from 40 hours to 80 hours. The Bargaining Committee was comprised of members Barry Williams and Heather Watkins.

— Randy Osborn, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Members Approve New Agreement at Frontier Elko

IBEW 1245 members employed at Frontier Communications in Elko, NV have unanimously ratified a new agreement, 3-0. The three-year agreement includes annual wage increases of 1.75% in the first year, 2% in the second year, and 1.5% in the third year. Members now have the ability to cash out some paid time off (PTO), and there are also some changes to prescription coverage and medical premiums. Member Kevin Parsons represented Local 1245 at the bargaining table.

— Randy Osborn, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

The limited-edition Fist Full of Lightning history book is still available!

"Eric Wolfe has produced a fascinating history of an important union — thoroughly researched, fast-paced and eminently readable. It is a valuable contribution to the history of the Bay Area and the U.S. labor movement."

— Carl Wood, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission (1999-2004); Director of Regulatory Affairs, Utility Workers Union of America

Fist Full of Lightning ultimately provides not only an important contribution to the history of working Americans but also food for thought about the challenges workers continue to face in a changing society.

— David Moberg, Senior Editor, In These Times

Fist Full of Lightning
BOOK ORDER FORM

The history of IBEW 1245 is now a full-length book, available to the union’s members and the general public.

Fist Full of Lightning: Workers, Power and the Invention of a Union can be purchased directly from IBEW 1245.

Send this order form and your check, payable to IBEW 1245, to

Fist Full of Lightning
IBEW 1245
PO Box 2547
Vacaville, CA 95696

Your Name: ____________________________
Address: ______________________________
City, State, Zip: _______________________

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Interested in becoming a contributor to the Utility Reporter?

The union welcomes

• feature articles
• photos
• fictional stories
• letters to the editor
• graphics
• artwork
• poems
• and other creative work by our members

Submissions can be sent to Communications Director Rebecca Band RGB1@ibew1245.com
Nine years ago, when the City of Vallejo filed for municipal bankruptcy, it was the City’s workers who took the brunt of the pain. Vallejo administrators imposed draconian furloughs and takeaways that left the workers and their families reeling.

At that time, IBEW Local 2376 represented more than 200 workers at the City, but after the bankruptcy, the union was essentially powerless to stop the severe wage reductions and devastating concessions that dragged on for the better part of a decade. The cuts took their toll on the union too, and in late 2015, the members of Local 2376 decided that the best way for them to regain some power would be to merge together with Local 1245.

Our Local welcomed the Vallejo brothers and sisters with open arms, and immediately began negotiating a successor agreement for them. The process was contentious, and the City at times failed to engage in good faith bargaining, prompting Local 1245 to file an Unfair Labor Practice charge against the City (which was ultimately withdrawn after the dispute was settled in the workers’ favor). After a total of 25 bargaining sessions over nearly 12 months, an agreement was reached, and earlier this year, the Vallejo members received their first general wage increase in nine years.

The relationship between the union and the City remains tenuous,* but Local 1245 is continuing to work towards smoother relations between the union and the employer. There’s no question that the workers have renewed faith in the fact that their union is fighting for them, and they continue to work day in and day out to restore Vallejo to the beautiful, vibrant and charming city they know it to be.

All about the water

The Utility Reporter caught up with a handful of Vallejo city members as they worked to maintain and repair the bayfront city.

“Today, we’re here replacing a three-quarter-inch plastic service that was leaking and going into an AT&T vault,” explained Local 1245 member James Grandrath, who works in the Water Department. “We dig it out, expose it, replace the line, backhoe it, use our temporary asphalt to cover it back up, and turn it over to the street department.”

This sort of work is extremely commonplace for Grandrath and his team, as many of the plastic pipes have degraded over the years and are in need of replacement.

“The plastic is 20 or 30 years old. It gets brittle, and if the ground shifts a little bit, it cracks and starts leaking,” said Grandrath. “There have been areas in Glen Cove where we had five or six crews in one day taking out as many as we could, for a month straight.”

The pipes aren’t the only water component in need of maintenance. The pump stations require regular upkeep and repairs as well. Senior Utility Mechanic John Palesi explained a project he was working on at the Columbus Parkway pump station, which serves approximately 80,000 customers in Vallejo.

“We’re bolting up a new check valve to a new swing check assembly for a retrofit of the pump station, to prevent water from backflowing in the wrong direction when the pumps are turned off,” said Palesi.

Palesi and his team are responsible for the drinking water of so many people, so they must take extra precautions to ensure its quality and potability.

*Due to stringent City of Vallejo policies, the Utility Reporter was disallowed access to most work locations and employees, with the exception of those who work out on public property. We regret that we are unable to portray the great number of departments where most of our members work, including Code Enforcement, Housing, Water Treatment, Emergency Response, Fire Inspection, Traffic, Streets, Landscaping, Engineering, Fleet Maintenance, Building Maintenance, Warehousing, Administration and Finance.
“Everything we do has to be NSF 61 certified, which means it can be used in food service... and all our hardware is 316 stainless for corrosion protection,” he explained.

The marina scene

The drinking water isn’t the only water that matters to Vallejo residents. The waterfront is one of the great sources of pride for the city.

At the beautiful and scenic Marina, Admin Clerk Kimberley Lindo manages all of the day-to-day office work for berthing and rental spaces for local boaters. But the Marina is more than just boat parking. There are also spaces for “live-aboard” houseboats, which makes the Marina a unique sort of residential community.

“We have 36 spots for live-aboards here; the longest time we’ve had one live-aboard has been 26 years,” Lindo explained. “We have three generations of live-aboards here; the longest time we’ve had one live-aboard has been 26 years.”

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“Just another day at work”

Local 1245 also represents a small group of maintenance workers employed by the Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD), which is a separate employer from the City itself. The workers keep up the local parks and support the various recreational programs that GVRD offers for Vallejo residents.

Recently, GVRD was faced with the possibility of losing the majority of its revenue, so Local 1245 lent its support and succeeded in getting its funding renewed (see “GVRD members thank Local 1245 for support on Measure K”).

The Utility Reporter found GVRD maintenance worker Gilbert Marquez at Lake Dolwood park, where he was cleaning up some trees that had been damaged by strong winds.

“This branch that came down was a safety hazard for the citizens, and we try to keep them safe,” said Marquez. “Just another day at work. I like (this job), I like being outdoors.”

“They take care of us”

The Vallejo workers had nothing but positive things to say about the union, and seem very appreciative that they now have Local 1245 supporting them at work.

“I think the union’s great. It helps us get good benefits, and if we have problems on the job, they’ve got our back,” said Marquez. “They take care of us.”

“I like the fact that we actually have representation now,” said Grandath. “I haven’t had any personal experience with [1245] yet, but from what I’ve seen with those who need the help, the union’s been there for them, whereas before, there was not much of anything.”

“Every time I call [the union] they’re always friendly and helpful, and they get right back to me,” said Lindo. “I know that they are here for me.”

“They’ve done a lot for us in the recent past, and they’re doing a lot for us growing into the future,” said Palesi. “We’ve seen a lot of positive changes to help the workers out.”

Around the clock

When it comes to the City’s Water supply, the work doesn’t just happen in the streets and stations. Water Plant Operators, Operators-in-Training, Laboratory Technicians, Utility Mechanics, Engineering Technicians, and Clerical personnel work together to operate and maintain modern water treatment facilities. Including the Fleming Hill Treatment Plant, Green Valley Treatment Plant and the Travis Treatment Plant, located on Travis Air Force Base, as well as many remote pump stations and equipment locations throughout the service territory.

Local 1245 members also provide critical services for the Vallejo Police Department, where they work as Police Clerks, Police Assistants and Evidence Technicians. Additionally, Local 1245 Communications Operators operate the dispatch system for police and fire personnel, faithfully, and sometimes under very stressful situations, around the clock every day of the year.

The Utility Reporter regrets that we are unable to share more of what our members in Vallejo do to help the City succeed, and we hope the City will change its policy in the future to allow more access to the union members that make Vallejo great.

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director

Photos by John Stacey

JV Macor contributed to this article.
Georgia on My Mind
Local 1245 Organizing Stewards join campaign to elect Ossoff to Congress

“Ironically, not party lines,” added Organizing Steward Kristen Rasmussen. “That’s why we have been really receptive about Ossoff’s chances. There is definitely an energy here, and a strong Ossoff presence,” Organizing Steward Ashley Williams reported on the day before the election. “Today was a major push day, with the average pair of canvassers hitting 100-150 houses. Tomorrow, we will be out all day and it’s the hope that our candidate will get the 50% plus 1 to prevent a runoff election in June. Fingers crossed!”

“We are here to do all we can to get the victory on April 18!” added new Organizing Steward Evelyn Okoegwale.

When the ballots were counted on April 18, Ossoff came in first place, capturing 48% of the vote. However, the law requires a candidate to receive at least 50% of the vote, and as a result, a runoff election between Ossoff and the second-highest vote-getter was scheduled for June 20.

During that two-month span leading up to the runoff, an overwhelming amount of special interest money poured into the district. In fact, it broke spending records across the board, and will go down in history as the most expensive U.S. House race to date. Voters were inundated with nonstop campaign advertisements, including one that fabricated a link between Ossoff and the horrific shooting at a Congressional baseball practice, even though Ossoff had absolutely no connection to the incident.

At the end of the day, Ossoff narrowly lost the runoff election. Although disappointed, the team remained upbeat and determined. "It is great to be a part of the movement that endorses candidates that believe in workers’ rights, affordable healthcare, and removing political corruption,” said Organizing Steward Alvin Dayoan. “We will continue to fight for what is best for the working class!” said Organizing Steward Rachel Ramírez Hill.

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director

“Teamwork Makes the Dream Work”
Local 1245 Helps Get Out the Vote in Montana Special Election

AFTER MONTANA CONGRESSMAN RYAN Zinke was appointed to serve as the US Secretary of the Interior earlier this year, a special election was called to fill the seat that he vacated in the House of Representatives. A team of IBEW 1245 Organizing Stewards, comprised of Sandi Busse, Brandon Cardoza, Mark Goodwin, Felicia Lynch, and Steve Marcotte, travelled out to “Big Sky Country” to support the labor-endorsed candidate, Rob Quist, in that special election.

Longtime Organizing Steward Steve Marcotte summed up why this race matters to working people everywhere, not just those in Montana.

“Every vote in Congress is a vote either for or against [working people]. Continued election of Representatives and Senators that don’t support working families will only embolden big business interests and harm us all,” Marcotte explained. “They have a plan — one state at a time. Montana’s first, but eventually the battle will move to California. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

“We the people have to fight for the rights we deserve such as higher wage, safer working conditions and full medical coverage. These are examples of things we are at risk of losing (with anti-union Representatives in Congress),” said new Organizing Steward Felicia Lynch.

The team arrived in Montana during the first week of May, right around the same time that mail-in ballots were sent out. Voting by mail is exceedingly popular in Montana, and the team knew they would need to make contact with voters early in order to drive up support for Quist.

“Montana has all the challenges of a big state with a small population,” noted Marcotte. “Unlike California voters are spread out making personal contact difficult, but like California, fellow Union members are almost always glad to see you and willing to listen.”

“My most positive interaction with a voter was from a man named Dwight Rose, who was responsible for Employee and Membership Development at the local IBEW 233,” Lynch recalled. “During canvassing, I walked up to his home where he was working in the garage. His old pickup truck had the familiar IBEW sticker and I felt slight relief to know I’d be speaking to a person who likely shared the same beliefs as I did. Dwight was excited and surprised to see the Union had sent a team to help support Quist all the way from California. After a good 20 minutes of Dwight talking with Sandi and myself, the rest of the team decided to walk up and join him in canvassing a neighborhood to get out the vote for Quist.

Organizing Steward Felicia Lynch prepares to knock on doors.

Organizing Stewards Brandon Cardoza (left) and Sandi Busse canvassed a neighborhood to get out the vote for Quist.

Local 1245 Organizing Steward Lead Mark Goodwin (right) shakes hands with Rob Quist.

Organizing Stewards Brandon Cardoza (left) and Sandi Busse canvassed a neighborhood to get out the vote for Quist.

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The team arrived in Montana during the first week of May, right around the
In the halls of the Capitol, waiting for the hearing to begin

IBEW 1245, together with the Coalition of California Utility Employees and California State Association of Electrical Workers, spoke out in firm opposition to Assembly Bill 1030 (Ting) when it came up in the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee on April 26, 2017.

A dynamic group of 18 Organizing Stewards, along with Local 1245 staffs, as well as representatives from other IBEW locals in southern California, attended the hearing to express opposition to the bill. During the public comment portion of the hearing, members clearly articulated why the union is opposed to AB 1030, and the message came through loud and clear, as the bill failed to garner the eight votes it needed to get out of committee.

AB 1030 would have required the CPUC to establish tariffs and rules to massively subsidize residential and commercial customers installing energy storage systems. Local 1245 opposed AB 1030 for five specific reasons:

- **UNNECESSARY**: Energy Storage is being built and installed in California as we speak at a rate faster than any state in the U.S.: This bill is unnecessary.
- **STORAGE URGENTLY NEEDED FOR THE GRID**: More Energy Storage is needed for grid applications only as currently the amount of renewable energy generated is often being “curtailed” or literally given to other states during the day because of over-generation. AB 1030 would take vital funding and resources away from this need by supporting the opposite and give funding to non-grid solutions which comprise less than 15% of all renewable power generated in California in 2015.
- **UNFAIR TO LOWER INCOME CUSTOMERS**: This bill will grant new, additional incentives/subsidies to the very same electric customers who have already enjoyed subsidized electricity under the California Solar Initiative and the Net Energy Metering (NEM) programs administered by the CPUC. These customers have received so much in subsidies, principally via the NEM, that electricity costs are being shifted from these wealthier customers or Solar Company owned installations that funding for low income residential programs will begin to be reduced to pay for existing subsidies. The cost of these subsidies are borne by everyone else who doesn’t have rooftop solar.
- **THREATENS RELIABILITY OF ELECTRIC SERVICE**: The bill singles out one emerging technology — and the non-regulated companies that are developing this technology — and promotes them to the head of line. At this time, small-scale battery storage technology will not store sufficient energy to effectively manage the current over-generation of renewable energy, nor is there any way to ensure that the companies developing the energy storage technology and selling it into the marketplace will assist in leveling out the “duck curve” and ensuring that all renewable energy generated today can be stored and used tomorrow. In fact, the opposite is true. These companies will sell their products, with a flourish of green promises, into the marketplace to customers who will use the state-sponsored subsidy to buy them, and then disappear to count their profits.
- **PREMATURE**: The CPUC and the CEC are currently in the process of developing a long-term Integrated Resource Planning process that will determine the proper balance of all energy resources to ensure the optimum amount of renewable energy resources while protecting customers and reliability. Any action to create incentives for any possible solution before the planning process is complete could lead to electricity customer money being spent unwisely, or could even create incentives that hurt customers and the grid.

Local 1245 Members Recognized by Napa-Solano Central Labor Council

The Napa-Solano Central Labor Council recently awarded IBEW Local 1245 staffer Eleanor Brown with it’s “Labor Backbone Award.” According to the Labor Council, “this award goes to the person that the CLC feels best showed why and how union members continue to be a force in the labor movement. This person works every day to promote Labor values and are the backbone of our labor Council’s continued organizing success.”

Local 1245 organizing stewards Steve Marcotte & Jasmine Williams both received the Labor Champion Award, as recognition for their hard work during the 2016 election season.
L. Gunnar Ronquist, center, with his mom, Cindy, and IBEW 1245 President Art Freitas

Stalcup Scholarship Recipient Recognized

Local 1245 applauds L. Gunnar Ronquist, the recipient of this year’s Roger Stalcup Community College Scholarship. Ronquist formally accepted his scholarship during the quarterly Advisory Council meeting in Reno.

Both of Ronquist’s parents are Local 1245 members employed at PG&E. His mother, Cindy, began working at Shasta Hydro in 2010, and his father, Kurt, recently got a job in the Gas Department in August of last year. In his scholarship essay, Ronquist talks about the value of the union for his parents, and he also notes how much his own quality of life has improved ever since his parents secured their union jobs.

Now that they both have decent jobs and are doing fairly well, on top of having the labor union behind their back, the stressful nights of complaining about finances and work have been eliminated, and the environment at home has become significantly less stressful and more enjoyable,” he wrote in his essay. “From the benefits of the labor union, my life has changed from nights of stress, to days and nights of peace and happiness.”

Thanks to the wages and security that two union jobs can provide, Ronquist will have the opportunity to go on his first-ever family vacation before he leaves for college this fall.

Ronquist will be attending Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, where he plans to major in Mechanical Engineering. He hopes to transfer to Cal Poly in the near future to complete his degree.

New Advisory Council Members Sworn In

IBEW 1245 President Art Freitas (right) swore in two new members of the Advisory Council during the quarterly meeting in Reno. Damien Padilla (left) has filled the San Francisco Division and General Office of PG&E seat, and Joanne Villoria McGrath (center) now represents General Construction of PG&E At-Large.

Executive Board Bids Mike Scafani a Fond Retirement

To commemorate his retirement and his unwavering commitment to the union, 39-year member Michael Scafani was honored by the Executive Board at the quarterly Advisory Council meeting in Reno.

Brother Scafani was initiated into the union in 1978, and served on numerous committees, mostly on the Gas side, during his lengthy career. He also briefly served as a member of the IBEW 1245 Executive Board from 2013-2014.

President Art Freitas presented Scafani with a plaque, which read:

In appreciation for your participation on the many committees you have served with to promote the well-being of our Brothers and Sisters of Local 1245.

You have always stood up for all members and their rights, working to enhance a better workplace and benefits for them and their families.

You have been instrumental in the ongoing endeavor to bring the Gas Department classifications and rates to a higher standard through your knowledge and endless work to enlighten the Company.

If it needed to be said, you were always ready to say it.

On behalf of the members of IBEW Local 1245, the Executive Board extends our gratitude and our best wishes to you and yours for a very enjoyable retirement.

Before he departed, Scafani took a moment to share his appreciation for the union.

“Everyone in this room knows how far 1245 has advanced … In my opinion, we set the mark all across this nation,” Scafani told the Advisory Council. “I’ve been to many conferences, and wherever I go, people are always asking me, ‘What’s 1245 doing?’ They want to see our contracts, because they know we set the bar. I hope you all realize that.”

“Fist Full of Lightning” Video Series Brings History to Life

The Local 1245 Advisory Council and Executive Board once again had the opportunity to screen the latest installment in the seven-part “Fist Full of Lightning” video series during the quarterly meeting in Reno.

The unique, eye-opening videos, which the union began rolling out earlier this year, have been extremely well-received among union members and leaders alike. Advisory Council member Bryan Anderson told the rest of the Council that he feels the history videos are “one of the best things that the union has put out.” He recently began hosting his own mini-screenings for members in his division, and has gotten inquiries from members in other departments who are interested in holding screenings as well. He encouraged all Advisory Council members, unit chairs and Shop Stewards to consider hosting similar screenings during breaks, after work and at unit meetings.

The videos can be found on the IBEW 1245 website at www.ibew1245.com/historyvideos, as well as on the union’s YouTube, Twitter and Facebook pages.
A transformative event — Members share highlights from Suriname trip

As part of IBEW Local 1245’s ongoing “Linemen Without Borders” initiative, the union once again sent a team of five members on a training mission to the small South American country of Suriname earlier this year (as reported in the previous edition of Utility Reporter). The trip was organized by Brady Hansen’s Suriname American Brotherhood Initiative. Prior to this initiative, the workers in Suriname had extremely limited resources, antiquated equipment, and little knowledge of safe work practices. The goal of these trips is to help further train these overseas linemen about safe working conditions and the best practices that enable our members to stay out of harm’s way in this dangerous industry.

During the quarterly Advisory Council meeting in Reno, the Local 1245 members who joined this most recent expedition shared their sentiments and memorable moments from the trip. PG&E Lineman Andrew West opened up the presentation with a short documentary-style video that he filmed while he was in Suriname (the video can be found online at youtu.be/EBn9H6c- xLa). West then told the Advisory Council about the real difference that the program has made for the Surinamese linemen, and how much the experience impacted him.

“You can really see there’s been a lot of improvement down there… it’s like night and day. The thing that struck me the most was how eager they are to learn. The interactions we had with them and the questions they were asking shows that they’re understanding,” said West. “It’s exciting to see them getting brought up to the standards of safe working conditions that we have here and often take for granted. It made me really appreciate the work that the IBEW has done for the past 130 years.”

“I love this union, and I’ve always been proud to be a part of it, but being down there brought that to a new level for me,” West continued. “It was rad to see our union contribute to something that really doesn’t do anything for us — it’s not like we’re gaining something from this. But we’re doing it, because it’s the right thing to do. And that kind of brotherhood is really powerful.”

NV Energy Lineman Samson Wilson was among the first group of linemen from Local 1245 who traveled to Suriname back in 2015. He had the opportunity to return to Suriname this year, and he explained to the Advisory Council how the team had opted for a different approach this time. During that initial trip, most of the time was spent in the classroom, but this time around, the IBEW members spent several days joining the Surinamese crews as they worked out in the field. He believes that this tactic allowed them to bond with the crews, and as a result, the Surinamese were more receptive to the information that the IBEW trainers had to share in the classroom. He also observed how his own ability to lead by example set a new standard of safety among the crews.

“This is a phenomenal program and I’m proud to be a part of it,” said Wilson. “Thank you to the Executive Board and to Tom for your vision … and for continuing that vision, not just in Suriname, but in other places. (This initiative) is growing, and we are that example to others.”

PG&E Lineman Cloudell Douglas was thrilled to have been chosen to go on this year’s trip. After he saw Brady Hansen’s original presentation about the linemen’s conditions in Suriname, Douglas knew he wanted to get involved. Last year, he spent a large amount of time and effort collecting legacy tools from yards all across the Bay Area to donate to the crews in Suriname. And when he finally got a chance to go down himself this year, he was moved to see how valuable those tools are to them.

“My experience down in Suriname was phenomenal,” Douglas told the Advisory Council. “Going there and getting to see everything that I saw, it was just remarkable. I’d like to tell 1245 leadership thank you for having the courage to go out and be a part of this. Thanks to Tom, and the E-Board, and our membership, because if it wasn’t for our dues, we wouldn’t be able to have a trip like this. I applaud you and hope [the union] will keep doing programs like this.”

The delegation also included one non-Lineman named John Wilson, who works as a fleet mechanic at NV Energy. He was invited to join the group this year because the Surinamese have been having a lot of trouble getting parts and equipment to maintain and repair their fleet vehicles, most of which come from the United States. He worked with them to open up lines of communications to the various manufacturers, so that they could more readily get the parts and information they needed to keep their fleet up and running.

“I got to bond with all the mechanics, and now I have 30 new Suriname brothers down there,” he told the Advisory Council. “It was educational for me to see how another country’s utility does it, and I was highly impressed.”

“This trip was a transformative event for these members. They left a lot there — knowledge, skills, tools and equipment — but I think they came back with more than they left,” said IBEW 1245 Business Manager Dalzell. “This is what [IBEW Founder] Henry Miller would be telling us to do, if he were alive today.”
After a hefty landslide took out a section of PG&E’s South Yuba Canal earlier this year, the Nevada County Irrigation District (NID) promptly declared the situation to be an all-out emergency. According to NID, the collapse resulted in 12,900 residents, farms, ranches and businesses in Grass Valley and Nevada City left without water.

The South Yuba canal is a key part of PG&E’s hydroelectric operations, as well as one of NID’s main water conveyance facilities. The canal moves water from Spaulding 2 powerhouse to Deer Creek powerhouse, and is then used to deliver water to NID, which in turn provides it to water users throughout Nevada County, CA. With the onset of irrigation season, and water demand expected to increase during the warmer months, hydro crews from PG&E needed to work as quickly as possible to make the necessary repairs and bring the canal back into service.

More than a dozen Local 1245 members were immediately dispatched to the scene outside of Emigrant Gap, CA, right around the 8.5 mile mark of the canal, where the slide had destroyed a Lennon flume. Although the damage to the flume itself was relatively small, the job was massive and labor-intensive. Most of the access roads in the remote area had been destroyed by the slide, and needed to be rebuilt to allow crews and equipment into the job site. An estimated 22,500 cubic yards of dirt needed to be excavated before repairs of the flume could even begin.

“It looks like a big old dust bowl,” remarked Apprentice Water System Repairperson Kirk McDonald. “If you didn’t know any better, you’d think it was a mine.”

When the Utility Reporter first visited the site in April, PG&E Backhoe Operator Jeremy Berg explained the specifics of the repair process.

“We’re cutting our slope back — it’s engineered at a 1¼:1 — down to a bench closer to the canal, then we’re taking it to a ¾:1 slope, and digging out a 25-foot section next to the canal,” said Berg. “Then we’re going to replace the steel flume and put
a wood box flume in, so we can get water to NID for irrigation.”

The crews worked 12 to 14 hours a day, seven days week, as weather allowed, in order to get the work completed as fast as possible. The unstable terrain, extreme weather and access issues made for a challenging job, but the crews stayed diligent, and used every resource to get the job done right.

“Today I am in contact with the helicopter pilot for sling loads and rock being poured. We’re flying in third-yard buckets of gravel to lay our base down, and then we’re flying in all our lumber that’s needed for the box flume, all the tin, all the tools, all the fuel for the equipment, everything,” McDonald told the *Utility Reporter* during a subsequent visit to the site in late May. “I run the laser set and grade, I’m also pounding in mud seals, setting stringers, just helping out when I can in between flights.”

“We have to work together as a team to get materials down here on the job. While these guys over there are doing all the dirt work, we’re here to install the new section of the box flume,” said GC Construction Foreman Ernie Flud. “We’re replacing the mud seals on the bottom, the stringers, the cross seals, and then we plumb it all up, and shift it around to where it makes a nice little turn in the mountain. We’ll put down some cedar floors, pine bottom and sides, and then we’ll put aluminum around it, and seal it, then the water should be able to flow through there.”

And sure enough, as soon as the job was complete, the South Yuba Canal was back in action, and water service was restored.

In a press release issued by NID on the day that water service resumed through the canal, the Irrigation District expressed its appreciation to the PG&E crews, “for allocating the necessary resources and putting in extraordinary hours to repair the canal within the targeted time frame, amidst increment, and at times, extreme weather conditions.”

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director

Kyle Whitman contributed to this report.
Outside Line Agreement

On April 24, the Outside Line Negotiating Committees for Locals 1245 and 47 reached a tentative agreement with the Western Line Chapter of NECA. Details of the Agreement were sent out to vote, and the agreement was ratified on May 26 by a combined 93% of all members who voted in both locals.

The total package is worth 15.7% or $11.15 over five years, with increases in the NEAP contribution of 51% and respectable wage increases over the term of this agreement. (More details below). The new wage increases went into effect on June 1.

Health Care (Lineco) costs have been on the rise, and steps were taken in this agreement to address those increases without any impact on the members.

State mandated sick leave is not practical with numerous tracking problems for multi-employer industries like the work covered under this agreement. It does have a value and the committees recognized that. In exchange for the sick leave language that is covered in the Table Settlement, the negotiating committee bargained the additional monies for the HRA accounts which benefit all the members working under this agreement. This will double the amount currently being applied to those cards from $5.00 an hour to $1.00 an hour by 2019. Benny cards have been popular and can be used for various medical expenses covered under the IRS guidelines as well as to pay deductibles, Cobra expenses, and retiree medical (all of which are tax-free).

Pole Test and Treat Negotiations

Opening letters were sent out to our contractors who perform Pole Test and Treat work to start bargaining on that agreement, which covers about 150 members. We will be picking a date in the near future as well as members to participate in the process. The current five-year agreement expires December 31, 2017.

Support Agreements

All the support agreements have been extended for five years, with a 3% wage increase each year of the agreement. Support agreements include fencing contractors, substation dismantling and contractors who assist PG&E crews.

Grievances

Currently we have one grievance involving two employees who were wrongly terminated. This grievance has progressed to the 3rd step, and we feel confident that we can get this resolved in this step as we continue our discussion with the employer.

JATC

We currently have 319 outside line apprentices registered in our JATC program:

- 82 Apprentices are working out of Local 1245
- 210 are working out of Local 47
- 1 is working out of 396
- 11 are unemployed (26 are technically unemployed, but 15 can’t work)
- 35 apprentices have graduated to journeymen line
- 21 have been indentured to outside line apprentices

Events Calendar

- First Aid & CPR is the second Saturday of every month in Riverside and Sacramento.
- October 14- International Lineman’s Rodeo in Bonner Springs, KS.

ORGANIZING

The following contractors were organized in May and June:

California Outside Line Agreement

- Anvil Power, Inc.
- Surefire Underground Consulting, Inc.
- Newman Construction II

Underground Construction Company is now doing business under Underground Electric Company, LLC.

Injured Workers Fund

The balance of the fund as of May 31, 2017 was $1,092,389.06. There were no disability or death benefit claims paid in the month of May.

Since the balance of the fund continues to climb each month, the Trustees of the plan have asked outside Counsel to research ideas on how to expand the benefits to OSL members who qualify for the Injured Workers Fund (IFW).

The Injured Workers Fund was set-up on the job that has left you unable to work for 10 or more days, you may be eligible. To request a claim form, please ask one of your Outside Line Business Representatives or email Liz McInnis at EJM1245@ibew1245.com.

Outside Construction Members Ratify New Agreement

IBEW Local 1245 members in Outside Construction have overwhelmingly ratified a new agreement, by a margin of 94% Yes to 6% No. The official vote tally can be viewed at http://ibew1245.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/outside-line-contract-ratification-results-5.26.17.pdf The agreement with NECA also applies to IBEW Local 47 Outside Construction members, who similarly voted to approve the agreement, 93% Yes to 7% No.

The total package is worth 15.7% over five years, with increases in the NEAP over the term of 51% and doubling the popular HRA contribution amount by 2019. To view the full details of the agreement, go to ibew1245.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/NECA-TA.pdf.

Special thanks to the members of the Local 1245 Ballot Committee, including Tellers Mike Cortrell and Cole Edwards, as well as Judge Peggy Proschold.

— Ralph Armstrong, IBEW 1245 Senior Assistant Business Manager

A cable project, which is allowing some of our work to be working at the peak on this job.

July 2, 2013

Francisco area. The Contractors are expecting the San Jose/South San Francisco area. The Contractors are expecting 40 to 50 members to be working at the peak on this job.

Much of the distribution work has moved to the San Jose/South San Francisco area. The Contractors are doing what they must to keep the hands in this area.

PAR’s tower painting is still going strong. They are running around 50 members out of Orinda.

We received a call recently from a member who reported that he has not received his Sub for 2½ months and only called the Hall after he quit. Please don’t wait to call the Hall if you believe there is a contract or safety issue. It is always better to handle it when it is first realized.

Outside Construction

California

Work is steady and slowly increasing in California. We currently have crews working all over the state.

Abercrombie Pipeline was awarded the Oroville Dam project. They are expecting to have a total of 50 to 60 members work six ten-hour days and more, as of mid-July.

The Trail Park project is in the trial phase, but we are expecting our contractors to be awarded the first phase from PG&E this summer.

Balfour Beatty will be starting their rail project sometime this summer. The project will start in San Francisco to San Jose. We are expecting 40 to 50 members to be working at the peak on this job.

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Nevada

Work continues to look good in Nevada, with more jobs being awarded all the time. Newman Electric has been awarded their first job in our territory. They have a 4/25kv cutover in Sparks, NV that will last between five and six weeks.

PAR has started two doc crews, one in North Lake Tahoe and one in South Lake Tahoe. These crews will most likely work through the entire summer until the snow flies again.

Wasatch still has doc crews and line-men in Reno, Winnemucca, Yerington, Elko and Carson City. Wasatch has also picked up a couple of substations in the Reno area that will start this summer.

Titan Electric is staying busy with small grey wire replacement projects. We still haven’t been able to appeal to NECA to change the way they put their work out to bid. Currently, the pole holes and pole removals are done in the line work bid and not the civil bid, which is allowing some of our work to be done by non-union contractors.

July — September 2017
The Silverado Trail may sound like a quaint dirt path, and when it was first constructed during the California Gold Rush, that’s indeed what it was. But over the decades, the traffic on the Trail has increased, and now it’s one of the busiest roads in Wine Country. With lovely vineyard vistas and more than 40 different wineries on the road between Napa to Calistoga, the Silverado Trail is anything but dusty these days.

Drivers are accustomed to zipping up and down the windy road, and there’s always a chance some of them may have had a bit too much to drink at the last winery, which meant that the IBEW 1245 outside construction crews working on the Trail needed to be extra cautious.

“There’s a lot of traffic,” said Brandon Breeden, an eight-year member of IBEW 1245 and a lineman with Wilson Construction. “It’s a tight road, and everybody’s going fast.”

Breeden and his team were tasked with re-tensioning part of the Fulton-Pueblo 115kv line where the sag was too high, and the oncoming traffic wasn’t the only tricky element to this job. The crew was working with an energized distribution and steel poles, which can be hazardous if not handled correctly.

“Bringing a steel pole up through a hot 21kv presents a new challenge, because it’s essentially a direct ground,” Breeden explained. “It’s more dangerous than a wood pole, because a wood pole is somewhat insulated.”
Several of the Prime Tree Contractors have been bringing in some out-of-state employees. Originally, this was done to address the alarming tree mortality issue caused by the bark beetle infestation in the Sierras. Now, we are seeing these out-of-state crews being used in attempts to stay on schedule with PG&E. In addition to the beetle problem and schedule issues, we believe an additional reason these crews are being brought in could be that the Primes have lost out on some state contracts to each other, and as such, they may be attempting to deprive each other of talent in areas where they no longer have work. Additionally, a PG&E contractor was temporarily removed from the property for one of the many things that ISNET identifies as a potential problem area, which could affect the safety of the operation. This lasted just a little over a week, and they are all back to work.

Arbor Works

The company is sub-contracting to Trees Inc. The crews are working 40 hours a week. They are working hard on their safety program, as well as the hiring and onboarding process.

Asplundh Tree Expert

NV Energy crews have been split between Reno and Carson City. The Nevada Tree Unit met last month with only a few issues to discuss. The company is starting to see employees move on to other competing contractors in California for more pay and benefits, as Nevada has a lower wage structure. We hope to be able to change that in the next set of negotiations in the Fall.

Davey Tree Surgery and Pole Test & Treat

Crews seem to be working steadily, 40 hours a week in the Central Coast with some overtime being offered on weekends in the Felton area. There have been some issues reported with port-a-potties. We held a GRC and Labor Management meeting on June 7 in Livermore to discuss all open matters, and all new grievances system-wide. The Committee is still working on a few grievances, pending company responses, prior to being referred to arbitration. We’re encountering issues with local Management forcing members to use their vacation time when missing work. Supervision is changing the status change form to be paid for the missing pay. The membership has the right to opt to not be paid. We expect to file a grievance soon. Another issue is the manner in which the company issues paychecks. When a member uses his vacation, it all gets lumped into one paycheck. Uncle Sam loves it, but the membership is unsatisfied. We have requested for all payroll to be separated by 40 hours, and all overtime hours be separated from the regular paycheck. This would encourage our membership to volunteer to work overtime. We’re currently inquiring on the amount of subcontracting being done by the company.

Mario’s Tree Service

The company has reached out to the union, looking for a crane operator. They recently acquired a crane to do the big removals in the Yosemite Division.

Mountain Enterprise

We have a few crews currently working at Liberty Energy in Truckee. Mountain crews have been working all over the PG&E system and are keeping very busy.

We look forward to making appointments of new Safety Stewards system-wide. The company is interested in hosting a Keep the Clearance safety presentation for all employees at the annual safety training in January 2018.

Mowbray – PG&E & SMUD

Several PG&E crews have been sent to work on SMUD property. The company now has 30 crews working at SMUD alone. The HR Department recently issued a new disciplinary policy. We look forward to having a meeting to discuss these new changes.

Osmose Pole Test and Treat

Crews are working in the Central Coast area.

Pacific Coast

Crews are working overtime subcontracting to Utility Tree in the Yosemite Division.

Synergy Tree Service

Crews continue to work in the Peninsula, San Jose, and Grass Valley. We have a few progression issues that are being addressed by the company. Recently, the company was running out of work and sent crews from Chico and Grass Valley to work in Golden Gate Division.

Trees Inc.

The company has sent crews from Fresno Division to the Stockton Division; they are claiming to be 9% behind schedule. They recently announced that their area manager, Manoj Prasad, is leaving the company to take the position of President of Mario’s Tree Service.

There are reports of them using a non-union subcontractor in the Yosemite Division.

Utility Tree Service

UTS has their people working 5/8’s schedule. Employees are asking for transfers (Article 9.1) in the Los Gatos area because of supervision. Our members donated $500 from the Unit Fund to General Foreman Lorenzo Cruz who has been on disability leave.

We’re encountering more sub-contracting going on with Utility Tree Service than any other Contractor system-wide. In Golden Gate, De Anza, San Jose and the Peninsula, Mario’s Tree Service has the majority; then UTS crews. Mario’s is even working 10-hour shifts, including weekends. Synergy has also been working for UTS in the Bay with 10 crews. This is all being driven by the company.

Wright Tree – SMUD

The company has been in hiring mode. Crews have been sent to help out in the North area of SMUD.

Las compañías contratistas de árboles traen cuadrillas de otros estados

Varios de las principales compañías contratistas de árboles han estado trayendo algunos empleados de otros estados. Inicialmente, esto fue hecho para hacerle frente al alarmante problema de mortalidad de los árboles causado por la infección del escarabajo de la corteza en la Sierra. Ahora, estamos viendo que estas cuadrillas están siendo utilizadas para tratar de cumplir con la programación de PG&E. Además de los problemas del escarabajo y de la programación, creemos que una razón adicional por la cual están trayendo estas cuadrillas puede ser que los contratistas principales han perdido algunos contratos estatales que han sido otorgados a sus competidores, y están intentando privar a las otras compañías del talento en las zonas donde ya no tienen contratos. Otro factor es que uno de los contratistas de PG&E fue retirado por la propietario por una de las muchas causas que ISNET identifica como un problema potencial, que podrían afectar la seguridad de la operación. Esto duró un poco más de una semana y todos han regresado al trabajo.

Arbor Works

La compañía está subcontratada por Trees Inc. Las cuadrillas solo están trabajando 40 horas a la semana. Están trabajando duro en su programa de seguridad, en la contratación y en el proceso de incorporación de los empleados. Asplundh Tree Expert Las cuadrillas de NV Energy se han dividido entre Reno y Carson City. La unidad de Nevada Tree se reunió el mes pasado con tan solo unos pocos asuntos para discutir. La compañía está empezando a ver que algunos empleados se están yendo a trabajar para otros contratistas competitivos para obtener una mejor remuneración y beneficios en California. El impacto se debe a la estructura de bajos salarios en Nevada. Esperamos poder cambiar esto en la próxima serie de negociaciones en el otoño.

Davey Tree Surgery y Pole Test & Treat

Las cuadrillas parecen estar trabajando 40 horas de manera sostenida en la Costa Central con algunas horas de sobretiempo que se ofrecen durante los fines de semana en la zona de Felton. Se han reportado algunos problemas con las letrinas portátiles (port-a-potty).

Se celebró una reunión del Comité de Revisión de Quejas entre el sindicato y la gerencia el 7 de junio en Livermore para discutir todos los asuntos pendientes y todas las nuevas quejas a lo largo del sistema. El Comité sigue trabajando en unas pocas quejas a la espera de las respuestas de la compañía, antes de someterlas a arbitraje. Estamos encontrando problemas con la gerencia local que está obligando a los miembros a utilizar su tiempo de vacaciones cuando faltan al trabajo. Los supervisores están cambiando el formulario de cambio de estado para que los miembros reciban pago en lugar de no recibirlo. Los miembros tienen derecho a optar por no recibir pago si así lo prefieren. Esperamos no presentar una queja pronto. Otro problema es la forma en que la empresa emite los cheques de pago. Cuando un miembro utiliza sus vacaciones, todo se agrupa en un cheque de pago. Al Tío Sam le encanta esto.
Árboles, de la página 24

Aunque los miembros no están satisfechos, hemos solicitado que todas las nóminas se separen en 40 horas y que todas las horas de sobretiempo se separen del cheque de pago regular. Esto podría alentar a nuestros miembros a ofrecerse de voluntarios para trabajar sobretiempo. Actualmente estamos averiguando cuánta subcontratación está haciendo la compañía.

Mario’s Tree Service

La Compañía se ha comunicado con el sindicato en busca de un operador de grúa. Recientemente han adquirido una grúa para las grandes remociones en la división de Yosemite.

Mountain Enterprise

Actualmente tenemos algunas cuadrillas trabajando con Liberty Energy Partner. Las cuadrillas de Mountain han estado trabajando en todo el sistema de PG&E y se mantienen muy ocupadas.

Esperamos pronto hacer los nombramientos de los nuevos Delegados de Seguridad de todo el sistema. La compañía está interesada en rehacer una presentación de seguridad Mantenla la Distancia para todos los empleados en la capacitación anual de seguridad en enero de 2018.

Mowbray – PG&E and SMUD

Varias cuadrillas de PG&E han sido enviadas a trabajar en la propiedad de SMUD. La compañía ahora tiene 30 cuadrillas solamente trabajando en SMUD. El departamento de Recursos Humanos ha publicado recientemente una nueva política disciplinaria. Esperamos tener una reunión para discutir estos nuevos cambios.

Osmose Polo Test and Treat

Las cuadrillas están trabajando en la zona de la Costa Central.

Pacific Coast

Las cuadrillas están trabajando sobre tiempo como subcontratistas de Utility Tree en la División de Yosemite.

Synergy Tree Service

Las cuadrillas continúan trabajando en la Península, San José y Grass Valley. Tenemos algunos problemas de asentamientos que están siendo revisados por la compañía. Recientemente, la compañía se estaba quedando sin trabajo y envió cuadrillas desde Chico y Grass Valley para trabajar en la división de Golden Gate.

Trees Inc.

La compañía ha enviado cuadrillas de la división de Fresno a la división de Stockton; dicen tener un 9% de retraso en la programación. Recientemente se anunció que Manoj Prasad, su gerente de la zona, se va de la compañía para asumir el cargo de presidente de Mario’s Tree Service. Hay reportes de que la compañía está utilizando un sub-contratista que no pertenece al sindicato en la división de Yosemite.

Utility Tree Service

UTS tiene su gente trabajando en un horario de 5 días, 8 horas. Los empleados están solicitando transferencias (Artículo 9.1) en la zona de Los Gatos debido a la supervisión. Nuestros miembros donaron $500 desde el fondo de la compañía a Capataz General Lorenzo Cruz, porque está de permiso por discapacidad.

Estamos encontrando que Utility Tree Service tiene más sub-contratistas que cualquier otro contratista en todo el sistema. En el Golden Gate, De Anza, San Jose y la Península, Mario’s Tree Service tiene la mayoría, le siguen las cuadrillas de UTS. Mario’s está trabajando 10 horas, incluidos los fines de semana. Sinergy también ha estado trabajando para UTS en la Bahía con 10 cuadrillas. Todo esto está siendo impulsado por la Compañía.

Wright Tree – SMUD

La compañía ha estado en el modo de contratación. Se han enviado cuadrillas para ayudar en la zona norte de SMUD.

Keep the Clearance Peer Initiative Recognized by PG&E

On May 18, members of the Keep the Clearance peer program attended the PG&E Tree Contractors Safety Forum to receive recognition for the program’s work in the field of tree trimming safety. KTC committee members Carlos Rodriguez, Committee Chair Ray Banfill and Local 1245 Business Representative Rich Lane gave a short presentation to the group of tree contractors and PG&E vegetation management. They talked to the group about how union tree trimmers actively work to monitor the safety of their fellow workers in the field and work cooperatively with utilities and tree companies to change safety culture and promote safe work practices. At the conclusion of the talk, a plaque was presented to the committee by PG&E vegetation manager Joel Smith.

Davey Tree manager Larry Abernathy spoke to the group about how early in the formation of the KTC program, Davey Tree approached the KTC committee and asked them to work with Davey on a close call program. The union agreed to screen close calls so that they could remain anonymous and report close calls back to companies to share their experiences. Since that time, approximately 150 close calls have been received and shared on the IBEW 1245 website or directly back to utilities and tree companies via email.

Another development through Keep the Clearance was the creation of the Tree Supervision Roundtable. Tree company, utility, KTC members and union representatives meet quarterly to discuss accidents, close calls and safety issues that tree trimmers encounter in the field. Guest speakers and company representatives come in to discuss changes in the tree industry, new equipment types, work practices and problems and solutions to safety challenges. From a group of 30-40 regular attendees evolved the Tree Safety Task Group, a pared down sub-committee that works on assignments and issues mid-quarter, and then reports back to the larger group with study findings and recommendations.

In five years of existence, the KTC peer program still promotes and practices its core function to reach out to tree trimmers through informational meetings with tree groups in their yards or safety meetings. Companies such as Trees Inc. Davey Tree, Family Tree, and Mowbrays regularly invite KTC to attend safety functions, give presentations and lead discussions related to tree trimmer safety. Currently the Keep the Clearance committee consists of six committee members and 42 safety stewards.

For more information on the Keep the Clearance program, contact Business Reps Rich Lane or Casey Kelley at 209-202-9492, 775-857-9750 or go to ibew1245.com/keep-the-clearance/

— Rich Lane, IBEW 1245 Business Representative

La Iniciativa “Mantenga la Distancia”

Recibió un Reconocimiento de PG&E

El 18 de mayo, varios miembros del programa entre iguales “Mantenga la distancia” (KTC por sus siglas en inglés), asistieron al Foro de Seguridad de Contratistas de Árboles de PG&E para recibir un reconocimiento por su labor del programa de mantenimiento de la seguridad de los podadores de árboles. Los miembros del Comité KTC: Carlos Rodríguez, el presidente del Comité Ray Banfill y el Representante de Negocios del Local 1245 Rich Lane hicieron una breve presentación al grupo sobre las potenciales amenazas de seguridad de los podadores de árboles. Los miembros del Comité KTC: Carlos Rodríguez, el presidente del Comité Ray Banfill y el Representante de Negocios del Local 1245 Rich Lane hicieron una breve presentación al grupo de contratistas de árboles y a la gerencia de vegetación de PG&E. Les explicaron al grupo cómo los podadores de árboles del sindicato trabajan activamente para supervisar la seguridad de sus compañeros de trabajo en el campo y trabajan en cooperación con las empresas de servicio público, los miembros del sindicato trabajan activamente para supervisar la seguridad de los podadores de árboles. Al final de la charla, el gerente del departamento de vegetación de PG&E, Joel Smith, le entregó una placa de reconocimiento al Comité. Los miembros del Comité KTC anunciaron que la compañía, Utility Tree Service, habló al grupo sobre cómo en la etapa inicial de la formación del programa KTC, Davey Tree se acercó al comité KTC y les solicitó trabajar con Davey en un programa de accidentes potenciales. El sindicato estuvo de acuerdo en hacer un monitoreo de los accidentes potenciales de manera que pudieran permanecer anónimos, e informar sobre accidentes potenciales a las compañías para compartir la información con sus empleados. Desde ese momento, se han recibido aproximadamente 150 accidentes potenciales que se han compartido en el sitio web del IBEW 1245 o directamente con las empresas de servicio público y las compañías de árboles a través de correos electrónicos.

Otro resultado del programa “Mantenga la distancia” fue la creación de la Mesa Redonda de Supervisión de Árboles. Las compañías de árboles, las empresas de servicio público, miembros del KTC y representantes sindicales se reúnen trimestralmente para discutir los accidentes, los accidentes potenciales y los asuntos de seguridad que los podadores de árboles enfrentan en el campo. Los oradores invitados y representantes de la empresa discuten sobre los cambios en la industria del mantenimiento de árboles, nuevos tipos de equipos, prácticas de trabajo y los problemas y las soluciones a los problemas de seguridad. A partir de un grupo de 30 a 40 asistentes asiduos surgió el grupo de Tareas de Seguridad de Árboles, un sub-comité con un número reducido de personas que trabajan en asignaciones y problemas de mitad del trimestre, y luego discutirán la programación a tiempo. A partir de este momento, se ha hecho una relación de discusiones relacionadas con la seguridad de los podadores de árboles. En la actualidad, el Comité “Mantenga la distancia” consta de seis miembros y 42 delegados de seguridad.

Para obtener más información sobre el programa “Mantenga la distancia”, comuníquese con los Representantes de Negocios Rich Lane o Casey Kelley al 209-202-9492, 775-857-9750 o visite ibew1245.com/keep-the-clearance/
On May 18, the Hold the Pull peer safety committee held its annual Safety Steward Summit. It was a day filled with discussion on pertinent safety issues such as effective grounding, doing your part for safety, watching out for your brothers and speaking up when you see things that are unsafe. IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell put the peer safety program into historical context.

"When Henry Miller and a couple other linemen got together above a bar in 1891 and started the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, it wasn't about wages, hours or working conditions. It was about safety," Dalzell told the room full of Safety Stewards. "Safety is in the DNA of this union ... and this program is what really works (to keep members safe on the job). You are the absolute core of the mission of the IBEW."

The summit featured several guest speakers who all had great stories about how and why safety is the most important part of any job. Former Marine Corps sniper and double amputee Dylan Gray spoke about his experiences in Iraq and what happens when you have risk-taking "cowboys" on the job. Gray, who was blown up by an IED while on patrol and lost both of his legs, shared the story of a "cowboy" friend who lost his life. When people don't do their part and fail to follow the rules, they or others can pay the price.

SMUD Troubleman Dave Freeman also shared a personal story about the accident that took his arm four years ago. Freeman was trying to make repairs to a T-lug that was broken inside the padmount capacitor cabinet, and didn't know that this part of the equipment was energized. This accident may have been prevented if he had been properly trained for this piece of equipment. He also spoke about how a life-changing accident doesn't just impact one individual — it affects family and co-workers as well. Freeman feels fortunate to have received tremendous support from everyone at his company.

The final speaker of the day was Brett Turner of the Peer Volunteer program, a substance abuse assistance program that was developed by Local 1245 and PG&E. Turner emphasized the importance of having those tough conversations when you notice a co-worker who is not fit for duty, because when we say nothing, the consequences can be disastrous.

There were many great discussions throughout the day, and lots of input from safety stewards representing companies all across the 1245 territory. Among the companies represented were Wells Rural Electric, Mount Wheeler Rural Electric, Turlock Irrigation District, Plumas Sierra Rural Electric, City of Redding, SMUD, PG&E, Silicon Valley Power, and City of Lompoc.

— Casey Kelley, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Line Clearance Tree Trimmers Join Keep the Clearance Safety Summit

On May 4, 2017, the Keep the Clearance peer safety committee held its annual safety steward training. The day was filled with safety subjects specific to line clearance tree trimmers, presented by Hispanic Arborists Association Executive Director Jose Mercado. Topics included working around energized lines, working on lines under pressure from fallen trees, tree rescue, the employee’s responsibility for their own safety, and knowing the right way to approach the work.

IBEW 1245 rolled out the new and improved secure safety forum site and the corresponding SMS texting program, designed to foster conversation among the stewards and help them stay informed and up-to-date on safety issues.

The group had an in-depth discussion about "close calls" and why reporting them is vital to our work and the safety of all workers. The staff reviewed how to submit them on the 1245 website, and explained that the information there is reviewed by staff and cleansed for content that could relate back to any company or employee before it is posted on the web.

It was a good turnout with representation from a number of tree companies, including Trees Inc., Wright Tree, Family Tree, Asplundh, Utility Tree, Davey Tree and Mowbrays.

— Casey Kelley, IBEW 1245 Business Rep
July 17, 2017

VIA EMAIL

To: All IBEW Business Managers in the United States and Canada – Having “A” Membership

Re: The Importance of Paying Dues Until Retirement

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

It has come to my attention that with increasing frequency, some IBEW “A” members who reach retirement age – or take an early retirement from their local union – stop paying their dues and are subsequently dropped from membership six months thereafter [Article XI, Section 6(a) of the IBEW Constitution]. In some cases, members are unaware of the pension and death benefits available to them from the Pension Benefit Fund (PBF), or mistakenly believe that having reached retirement age for the local union pension plan, are no longer required to pay dues. As you know, “A” members who are dropped from membership forfeit all accrued pension and death benefits from the PBF. To remain eligible, a member must maintain continuous good standing by paying dues monthly or quarterly until the member is placed on PBF pension.

To help mitigate this occurrence, I must enlist your assistance in educating your members on the importance of paying dues and the benefits available to them from the PBF. It is imperative members understand the importance of paying dues until they are approved for PBF pension. If there is an overpayment, the Per Capita Department will make a refund. I am certain you would prefer to deal with an overpayment rather than a member’s complete loss of PBF benefits due to nonpayment of dues. To be clear, members must continue paying dues until they are placed on PBF pension and receive an approval letter from the PBF.

To inform your members, I suggest using any or all of the tools available to you as business manager, such as a special letter to the membership, a notice in the local union newsletter, and/or a posting on the local union’s website. Please inform your members of the advantages of union membership, particularly the benefits that are available to them from the PBF.

I am pleased to announce that soon the international office will post an article in the Electrical Worker that will discuss dues payments and PBF benefits. I believe you and your members will find it helpful.

With best wishes, I am

Fraternally yours,

Kenneth W. Cooper
International Secretary-Treasurer

KWC:bap
Copy to All IBEW International Vice Presidents
Man’s Best Friend: IBEW 1245 retiree trains therapy dog to comfort ailing veterans

IEW 1245 retiree Chip Chadwick has always had a strong desire to help sick and injured veterans. As a military vet himself, Chadwick is deeply connected to his brothers and sisters at the Veterans Affairs (V.A.) hospital. Ever since he retired, Chadwick has been searching for a special way to give back to the servicemen and women who sacrificed so much for our country.

Four years ago, Chadwick and his wife adopted a sweet All American dog named Otter. And Chadwick knew right away that Otter would make a perfect V.A. therapy dog.

“He loves people, attention, petting and pleasing his people,” Chadwick said of Otter. “Folks who meet him say his eyes look like those of an old soul.”

While some may confuse therapy dogs with service dogs, the two are actually quite distinct. Unlike service dogs, which are trained to do a specific task to assist their handler and their disability, therapy dogs don’t have one specific skill. Instead, they are trained to comfort and uplift patients who are struggling with persistent physical and mental health issues. These patients are generally unable to have or see their own pets, as they are staying in a hospital or impatient treatment center, which makes a visit from a therapy dog extremely special and meaningful.

Training a therapy dog is not something that happens in a weekend. It takes time, effort, patience and diligence. When the Chadwicks decided to train Otter as a therapy dog, their first step was to take him in for the American Kennel Club’s Canine Good Citizen test, which indicates his willingness to work with his handler and deal with situations in public. Otter passed that initial test, but progress on his training stalled for a bit. Then, last Christmas, the Chadwicks received a special gift from Santa — enrollment in the Therapy Dog & Handler class at Truckee Meadows Community College. After they graduated from that course, Chadwick and Otter had to test for registration with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. The process involved three visits to a local skilled nursing care facility, where Otter had to demonstrate comfort in new situations, impulse control, and acceptance of different people and their appliances. He passed with flying colors.

Once Otter and Chadwick completed all the requisites to join the therapy dog team, they signed up to volunteer at the local V.A. hospital in Reno, NV. That process in and of itself was also fairly labor-intensive, and involved fingerprint, a background check, orientation classes, vaccines, TB testing and more.

But Chadwick was fully committed to the process, and now, he and Otter visit the V.A. every week.

“We make the rounds of the waiting rooms, the long-term care ward, and the patient care areas,” said Chadwick. “Our objective is to make folks smile; to lighten the load a little by bringing happiness and cheer to them. People open up, talking about dogs they have had and asking about Otter. It is a joy to listen to their stories and see them light up when they see Otter.”

While Chadwick and Otter thoroughly enjoy their visits to the V.A., the pair aspires to go even further as a therapy dog team.

“My goal for future work with Otter is to be a part of the FEMA emergency response program to provide comfort, support and distraction for people experiencing traumatic events,” explained Chadwick. “There is a child’s reading program at local libraries ... where children read to therapy dogs and feel less threatened or insecure. We would also like to visit students at the university who are preparing for final exams to ease their stress.

In addition to being a therapy dog, Otter is also an esteemed canine athlete. He has titles in the dog sports of Barnhunt and Canine Nosework, and is working towards titles in Rally Obedience as well.

Learn more about the therapy dog program at www.therapypetdogs.com/. Chadwick and Otter were featured in a video produced by the TMCC Therapy Dog certificate program. youtube.be/36Ki1nPnHu

Communications Director

Retirees’ Corner

Congratuations 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, Cotati, Merced, Reno/Sparks, Yerington, Carson City and 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!

John Alvarez 47 years Bay Point, CA   Dave Brubaker 38 years Sedona, Arizona   Carla Da Luz 43 years Petaluma, CA

Gary Bryant 12 years Fresno, CA   Sally Campbell 14 years Modesto, CA

John Daciano 33 years Salinas, CA   Michael Daly 37 years Pleasant Hill, CA

Sherry Falge 32 years Ventura, CA   Lawrence Flutt 34 years Soquel, CA

Thomas Denning 36 years Petey Valley, CA   Michael Frasu 19 years Los Banos, CA

Chris Dewlany 41 years Sebastopol, CA   Randy Garcia 44 years Sutter, CA

George Dickens 39 years San Jose, CA   Antonio Gutierrez 40 years Orangevale, CA

LaVonne Gonzalez 39 years San Martin, CA   James Hardison 37 years Dixon, CA

David Gonzales 45 years Planada, CA   Robert Harty 32 years Los Banos, CA

Jeffery Hawkins 34 years Antioch, CA   Donald House 34 years Roseville, CA

Mitchell Hempstead 9 years Antioch, CA   Ronald Jove 33 years Auburn, CA

Michael Hickey 38 years So. San Francisco, CA   Robert Jorgensen 27 years Santa Cruz, CA

Daniel Higgins 19 years Marysville, CA   David Josephs 17 years Atascadero, CA

Douglas Holding 36 years Chester, CA   Mark Kondo 25 years San Luis Obis, CA

Lynda Holloway 39 years San Luis Obispo, CA   John Koprina 39 years Yuba, CA

Mary Holt 32 years Santa Rosa, CA   George Lapane 39 years Lincoln, CA

Menova Honrada 33 years Hercules, CA   Michael Lara 36 years Madera, CA

Lawrence Dickens 45 years San Jose, CA   Virginia Lawrie 10 years Fresno, CA

Larry Gonzales 42 years Modesto, CA   Betty Miller-Stinnett 29 years Lodi, CA

Robert Gray 13 years Mommon, OR   Jeffery Hawkins 34 years Antioch, CA

Robert Jessup 26 years Hanford, CA   Richard Janes Jr. 33 years San Luis Obispo, CA

Walter Lew 43 years San Bruno, CA   Roberta Mora 36 years Salinas, CA

Salvador Licea 33 years Healdsburg, CA   G Lloyd 39 years Manteca, CA

Stephen Loya 11 years Paso Robles, CA   Fred Markarian 34 years Post Falls, Idaho

Bruce McLeod 35 years Lakeport, CA   Kimberly Mele 34 years San Francisco, CA

Mary Lynne 35 years Sacramento, CA   Paul Navarrete 42 years Roseville, CA

Julie Neira 30 years San Leandro, CA   Patricia Nunemann 36 years Daly City, CA

Richard Orosco 40 years Fresno, CA   James Paul 45 years Dutch Flat, CA
Reno/Sparks Retirees Donate 60 Fans to Needy Seniors

In what has now become an annual tradition, the IBEW 1245 Reno/Sparks Retirees Club once again collected fans to donate to low-income seniors who cannot afford air conditioning. The weather in Washoe County often exceeds 100 degrees in the summer months, and heat illness can be a serious condition among seniors.

This year, the Retirees Club collected 60 fans, which is the most fans collected since they began this program a few years ago. The retirees presented the donated fans to Washoe County Adult Services Division Director Ken Retterath, who will assist with delivering the fans to seniors in need this summer.

Retirees, from page 31

Jolene Peter
27 years
Yuba City, CA
Glenn Silva
20 years
Fairfield, CA

Paula Pongsegow
39 years
Chico, CA
Russell Silva
36 years
Lemoore, CA

Michael Puckett
44 years
Fresno, CA
Georgette Simmerman
35 years
Stockton, CA

Russell Ratterman
19 years
Fairfield, CA
Jerry Sisemore
22 years
Rosesburg, OR

Layton Rease
32 years
San Leandro, CA
Jeffrey Stoner
37 years
Chico, CA

Karen Reed
17 years
Sacramento, CA
Raymond Swindell
46 years
Brentwood, CA

Anthony Reyes
38 years
Bakersfield, CA
Patric Thomas
19 years
Oceano, CA

Timothy Rice
39 years
Bakersfield, CA
Andrew Thompson
20 years
San Carlos, CA

Russell Rogers
34 years
Placerville, CA
Carlos Trujillo
45 years
San Jose, CA

James Romeri
22 years
Yountville, CA
Robert Tyler
32 years
Santa Maria, CA

Richard Rosensteel
40 years
Potter Valley, CA
Edward Velasquez
11 years
Annapolis, CA

Mark San Julian
32 years
Escalon, CA
Terry Vollman
29 years
Paradise, CA

David Sarti
33 years
Antioch, CA
Keith Walker
39 years
Lafayette, CA

Mark Schmeck
33 years
Auburn, CA
Stephen Walker
37 years
Livermore, CA

Brad Schuback
31 years
Millbrae, CA
Rosaland Watson
34 years
Atwater, CA

Barbara West
13 years
Carmichael, CA
Lloyd Williams
16 years
Eureka, CA

Arnold Work
36 years
Fresno, CA
Karen Reed
17 years
Sacramento, CA

Anthony Reyes
38 years
Bakersfield, CA
Russell Rogers
34 years
Placerville, CA

James Romeri
22 years
Yountville, CA
Richard Rosensteel
40 years
Potter Valley, CA

Mark San Julian
32 years
Escalon, CA
David Sarti
33 years
Antioch, CA

Mark Schmeck
33 years
Auburn, CA
Brad Schuback
31 years
Millbrae, CA

FUN is now more AFFORDABLE with savings on theme parks, movies and more!

Visit our website and check out the great Entertainment Discounts available exclusively to union families. Then take a break and enjoy more fun for less money!

Utility Reporter
Units lend a helping hand

All of the following unit donations to various charitable organizations from April through June 2017 were approved by the IBEW 1245 Executive Board.

**Diablo Canyon Unit #1220** donated $250 to the Might Oaks Warrior Program.

**City of Redding Unit #3217** donated $200 to the Happy Valley Little League.

**USBR/Keswick** donated $500 to the North State Wolf Pack 14U.

**Yerington Unit #3313** donated $500 to the Walker River Little League Baseball fund.

**Frontier/Elk Grove Unit #4014** donated $500 to the American Legion Post 233’s Annual Fundraiser Dinner and Auction.

**Frontier/Burney Unit #4015** donated $500 to the Burney Basin Little League Baseball Fund.

**Reno/Sparks Retirees Club** donated $250 to the Washoe County Senior Services.

**City of Lompoc Unit #1218** donated $500 to the Lompoc Employees Association.

**City of Lodi Unit #2516** donated $500 to the 180 Teen Club via United Way of San Joaquin County.

**Lake County Unit #3715** donated $250 to Kelseyville High School AG Department and $250 to Westshore Little League.

**City of Gridley Unit #4017** donated $500 to the Sycamore Middle School Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support System (PBIS) program.

**North Lake Tahoe Unit #5232** donated $500 to the U-10 Falcons Soccer Team.

**Santa Maria Unit #1216** donated $250 to the Boy Scout Troop 450 and $250 to the Boy Scout Troop 432 to help purchase uniforms, hats and supplies.

**Richmond Unit #2318** donated $250 to the Rodeo Baseball Association in Rodeo, CA.

**Vallejo Unit #2376** donated $250 to sponsor David Bernstein to play in the USSA All American Team in Orlando, FL.

**Stockton Unit #2509** donated $200 to the Outreach Ministry of Victory in Praise Church so they may purchase socks and hygiene products for displaced children, women, and men in Stockton.

**Fort Bragg Unit #3717** donated $500 to the Redwood Coast Seniors.

**SMUD Unit #3911** donated $400 to the Employees Association for the SEA/Chief Red Cloud Fishing Derby on June 24, 2017 at the SMUD Employees Campground.

**Red Bluff Trees Unit #4720** donated $500 to the Red Bluff Youth Football team.

**Local 1245 Members Join CBTU Earth Day Cleanup Project at Port of Oakland**

IBEW Local 1245 members Clara McAllee-Evans, Cloudell Douglas & Eleanor Brown joined fellow members of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) for a Shoreline Cleanup community service event at the Port of Oakland on Earth Day.

**Lodi Unit Presents Community Fund Donation to One Eighty Youth Program**

Unit #2516, Lodi, presented a $500 donation from the IBEW 1245 Community Fund to Lodi’s One Eighty Youth Program. The One Eighty Program is dedicated to helping at-risk youth and families make a 180-degree change toward thriving physically, emotionally, and spiritually. One Eighty exists to impact the lives of third through twelfth-grade students by providing a safe place for teens that produces meaningful activities, mentoring relationships, and support systems that encourage spiritual growth and promote positive development. Learn more about the program at www.180lodi.org.

**Merced ID Unit Volunteers at Handicap Fishing Derby**

Several IBEW 1245 members from unit #1122, Merced ID, assisted in the annual handicap fishing day at Yosemite Lake, where they manned the grilled and cooked hot dogs for the participants. They also provided potato chips, cookies, water and soda, funded by the community fund contribution that the unit made this Spring.

— Sheila Lawton, IBEW 1245 Business Rep
Lompoc Unit Participates in Relay for Life

The IBEW Local 1245 Lompoc Unit and EWMC (Electrical Workers Minority Caucus) teamed up with a local business (DenMat, manufacturer of dental implants) to form a team to raise funds to donate to the 2017 Relay for Life. Relay for Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. It is held annually and is staffed and coordinated by volunteers in more than 5,200 communities and 27 countries around the world. Volunteers give of their time and effort because they believe it’s time to take action against cancer.

The EWMC held a bbq tri-tip sandwich fundraiser on April 6, 2017. IBEW members Tony Vickery, Alvin Allen and Armando Garcia handling the bbq-ing and set-up and EWMC members Theresa Hernandez and Maria Salazar (also members of IBEW 1245) handed out meals. This fundraiser alone netted $1,030.00, which was all donated to the American Cancer Society. Our partners at DenMat also hosted two special events, a pizza sale and a breakfast sale, to further boost our fundraising efforts.

The Relay for Life event itself was held at Lompoc High School’s Huyck Stadium on May 6-7, 2017. Lompoc experienced unseasonably high winds and rain on that weekend, yet Theresa Hernandez and her family camped out at the site the entire 24 hours of the event, selling baked goods and raffle tickets for four prize baskets. Alvin Allen donated a huge pot of homemade chili that helped ward off some of the windchill, and Lompoc EWMC President Maria Salazar did facepainting for kids (and kids at heart!!) on the day of the event.

Altogether, our team — which we named “Diversity Heroes” — raised over $2,000 for the American Cancer Society. The Lompoc Relay for Life raised more than $89,000, and donations are still coming in.

LINE DADDY

Our call is a notion,
To vertical motion.
Up a round pole,
Straight up in the sky.
I’ll go up first hang the line,
You come up when I give you the sign.
I carry you son
You carry the weight.
I’ll teach you everything you know,
During these dates,
And even all I know,
If you’re patient and wait.
Don’t make no wrong moves,
Just to be tube locked and doomed.
Step up here kid,
Pass me your skid.
Come on up here,
Snap in there boy.
I’m your line daddy,
Your chaperone.
The ole man that’ll get you home.
Don’t give no back talk,
Be late or slow walk.
I’m handing the craft free
Like it was handed to me.
I’m a wood walker,
An overtime stalker.
Let’s see’ve you got the sand,
To keep up with me!
You ain’t gonna know all that we do,
We ain’t gonna always stop for school.
But when you’re all done
Smile at the sun.
You’re gonna look back,
And remember me.

— Mike Cottrell, IBEW 1245 Executive Board member
## 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, 2016 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 cash basis; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibility. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

As described in Note 1, these financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Accordingly, the accompanying statements are not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Opinion. In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash basis transactions of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1245 for the year ended December 31, 2016 and its financial position (cash basis) at December 31, 2016 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 supplementary information (shown on pages 11 to 24) 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 accounting 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 the information to such information as 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 this information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

San Bruno, California
March 20, 2017

DALMAS ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

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### INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL NO. 1245 STATEMENT OF CASH TRANSACTIONS DATED DECEMBER 31, 2016

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank of the West - checking accounts</td>
<td>1,043,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank of the West - money market</td>
<td>1,484,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash funds</td>
<td>5,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrill Lynch-Bank Deposit Program and other cash account</td>
<td>839,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muni Funds</td>
<td>5,754,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Stocks</td>
<td>1,358,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin Income Fund</td>
<td>1,621,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>280 shares PG&amp;E common stock - at cost</td>
<td>3,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Nicole Fund</td>
<td>12,710,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Donation Fund - checking account</td>
<td>7,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,717,643</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash balance, December 31, 2015</td>
<td>70,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts: Portion of Local Union dues directly deposited to this fund</td>
<td>96,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total receipts and balance</strong></td>
<td><strong>181,224</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Disbursements:

- **Political Donation Fund**: Individual members of the Local make voluntary donations to the Political Donation Fund. These funds are designated for the purpose of political contributions on behalf of the membership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital Web Works - filing fees</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of State of California - filing fees</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Reform Division Fee</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member receipt for donation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Spearman-Nevada Senatorial Campaign</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Denis - Nevada Senatorial Campaign</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend of Joyce Woodhouse</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Sprinkle NV Assembly</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee to Elect Richard Cabrillo</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee to Elect Heidi Swank</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee to Elect Teresa Benitez-Thompson NV Assembly Democratic Caucus</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee to Elect Jason Fitzgerald</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee to Elect Nicole Cannizzaro</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First in the West</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,500</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee to Elect James Oberhenschel</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Quick for Assembly 2016</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Mullen for Assembly 2016</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Fishman SMUD Board of Directors</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Bus-Thompson SMUD Board of Directors</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Kerh SMUD Board of Directors</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genevieve Shima SMUD Board of Directors</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skip Thompson for Supervisor</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazinder Growel for Assembly 2016</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eileen Spiegel Campaign</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaign to Elect Tic Segerholm NV Assembly</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Committee to elect David Parks</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee to Re-Elect Kelvin Atkinson</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawn Ortiz-Legg for Assembly 2016</td>
<td>5,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Adam Hill</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Beall for Senate</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roccusci &amp; Tracy Mendonsa For City of Roseville</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Manning for Senate 2016</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Cook-Kallio for Assembly 2016</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Berman for Assembly 2016</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norien Evans for Sonoma Co. Supervisor</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Bond for Assembly 2016</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Mateo C.L.C. - Cope</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee to Protect AC Transit Services</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local No. 1245 Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements Political Donation Fund Designated For the Year Ended December 31, 2016**
### Reimbursements to General Fund:
- **San Mateo C.L.C.**: $5,309
- **Marin County C.L.C.**: $8,358
- **Total receipts**: $32,169,398

### Local #2376 merger
- **49,707**

### Working dues
- **36,474**

### Travel
- **35,144**
- **5,063,077**

### Total receipts
- **32,169,398**
- **Total balance and receipts**: $45,730,997

### Disbursements, per Page 17 of Scheduled Disbursements
- **33,020,973**

### Cash and investments balance, December 31, 2016,
- **Details in Statement of Financial Position arising from cash transactions**: $2,310,024

### INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL NO. 1245 STATEMENT OF CASH DISBURSEMENTS UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

#### Affiliation fees:
- **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers**
  - **4,200,000**

#### Salaries Paid
- **543,009**

#### Employee benefits:
- **Membership benefits**
  - **279,762**

### Reimbursements to General Fund:
- **San Mateo C.L.C.**: $5,309
- **Marin County C.L.C.**: $8,358
- **Total receipts**: $32,169,398

### Local #2376 merger
- **49,707**

### Working dues
- **6,663,323**
- **13,382,135**

### Utility Report
- **402,137**

### Miscellaneous
- **27,625**

### Bank charges
- **39,291**

### Furniture and equipment purchases
- **184,840**

### Storage
- **9,801**

### Salaries Paid
- **3,133,239**

### Committee salaries and expenses:
- **Executive Board meetings**
  - **24,972**

### Miscellaneous
- **27,625**

### Bank charges
- **39,291**

### Furniture and equipment purchases
- **184,840**

### Storage
- **9,801**

### Salaries Paid
- **3,133,239**

### Committe salaries and expenses:
- **Executive Board meetings**
  - **24,972**

### Salaries Paid
- **3,133,239**

### Miscellaneous
- **27,625**

### Bank charges
- **39,291**

### Furniture and equipment purchases
- **184,840**

### Storage
- **9,801**

### Salaries Paid
- **3,133,239**

### Committee salaries and expenses:
- **Executive Board meetings**
  - **24,972**

### Miscellaneous
- **27,625**

### Bank charges
- **39,291**

### Furniture and equipment purchases
- **184,840**

### Storage
- **9,801**

### Salaries Paid
- **3,133,239**

### Committee salaries and expenses:
- **Executive Board meetings**
  - **24,972**

### Miscellaneous
- **27,625**

### Bank charges
- **39,291**

### Furniture and equipment purchases
- **184,840**

### Storage
- **9,801**

### Salaries Paid
- **3,133,239**
SERVICE AWARDS

Stockton
March 4, 2017

25 Years From left: Vickie St Martin, Janet Pacring and Denise Phillips

20 Years From left: Susan Dudley, Casimiro Garcia and Candy Williams

15 Years Front row, from left: Patricia Anderson, Sara Lepe-Smith and Tanya Banes. Back row, from left: Juan Cervantes, Debbie Easterbrooks and Christopher Banes

10 Years Front row, from left: Susana Gallegos, Jolene Forrestdavis and Liza Flanigan. Back row, from left: Josephine Cara, Clifford Ball and Veronica Centeno

10 Years Front row, from left: Sarah Torres and Christine Weeks. Back row, from left: Chanthann Vong and Felicia Van de Bor

35 Years Front row, from left: Tina Iliff and Diane Huey. Back row, from left: Raymond Arreola, IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell and John Simms

30 Years Front row, from left: Michelle Krueger and Cecelia De La Torre. Back row, from left: Mitzi Archer and Tom Dalzell

15 Years Front row, from left: Maria Moran, Angel Galvez-Jarvis and Laura Breedlove. Back row, from left: Anthony Moss, Patricia Lopez, Victoria Nevarez and Carrie Montero

10 Years From left: Travis Glock, Victoria Johnson and Raymont Jeung

5 Years Front row, from left: Belinda Vizuet, Angelica Altamirano. Back row, from left: Yvette Alvarado, Tanvir Ahjaz and Debra Asia

Photos by John Storey

Congratulations on your service!
HONOREES

45 Years
Hansell, Peter

40 Years
Sailey, Michael
Sonke, Jerry
Streby, Kenneth

35 Years
Anderson, Jeff
Arellos, Raymond
Carr, Daniel
Eates, Dee
Hamilton, Mike
Huey, Diane
Hullburt, Tina
Rigby, Steve
Simmerman, Georgette
Sims, John
Wood, Candy

30 Years
Albee, Robert
Condeiro, Linda
De La Torre, Cecelia
Groden, Stephen
Kanathan, Tanya
Kreger, Michelle
Meikle, Trisha
Meneses, Joe
Rhodes, Lynette
Saguid, Augusto

25 Years
Bennett, Jeffrey
Bergqua, Paul
Britt, Michael
Cello, Kurt
De Vane, John
Donahue, Jerry
Fustin, Louie
Graham, Kenneth
Habel, Thomas
Hasty Jr., Lennie

20 Years
Bennett, Jeffery
Saguindel, Augusto
Rhodes, Lynette
Menzes, Joe
Meikle, Trisha
Kruger, Michelle
Albertoni, Robert
Anderson, Jeff
Streeby, Kenneth

15 Years
Spero, Ed
Romero, Lisa
Carpenter, Jeff
Huff, Don
Ecclestone, Donald
Diebner, David
Foster, Greg

10 Years
Brown, Mark
Moses, Jason
Kochtoris, Christopher
Kernard, Michelle
Khan, Rith
Kiesel, Kelly
Lassett, Robert
Leitz, Frederick
Lewis, Michael
Lopez, Eusebio
Loveless, Janina
Ly, Joyce
Martin, David
Marwick, Gregory
Mata, Al
Mays, Michael

5 Years
Fuentes, Mark
Hodges, Gayle
Nygren, Kevin

Utility Reporter 35

10 Years
Front row, from left: Teri Trach, Thanb Trach and Sabrina Tolken, Back row, from left: Jennifer Quinones, Michael Romoura and Linda Sendig

5 Years
Front row, from left: Darlene Owens, Julie Gonzalez and Shekera O’Neal. Back row, from left: Sophia Navarro, Fernando Mejia and Misty Paz

5 Years
Front row, from left: Lindsey Durao, Barbra Rocic, Brigitte Bermodes. Back row, from left: Nicholas Dalbianco, Valerie Billheimer, David Castellano

5 Years
Front row, from left: Kelly Wright, Perry Settlement III. Back row, from left: Rolando Ybarenas, Marianne Turner and Isatis Torres

4 Years
Front row, from left: Sophia Navarro, Fernando Mejia and Misty Paz

5 Years
Front row, from left: Luz Rivera-Nunez, Jessica Salas and Ampai Rattana. Back row, from left: Danielle Seibel, Kyle Russo and Kristen Rasmussen

Men: Angel Martinez, Mark Vargas, Carlos Martinez, James Martinez, Marcos Martinez, Michael Martinez, Miguel Martinez, Sarita Martinez, Trudy Martinez, Victor Martinez, Yvette Martinez

Women: Alana Contreras, Amanda Contreras, Angela Contreras, Angela Martinez, Angelica Martinez, Angela Vargas, Annette Contreras, Brenda Contreras, Brenda Martinez, Brenda Vargas, Brittany Contreras, Celeste Contreras, Celeste Martinez, Christina Contreras, Cynthia Martinez, Diana Contreras, Diana Martinez, Donna Martinez, Donna Vargas, Erica Martinez, Erica Vargas, Erika Contreras, Erika Martinez, Esmeralda Martinez, Erica Martinez, Fernando Contreras, Fernando Martinez, Fernando Vargas, Gisela Martinez, Gisela Vargas, Heidi Contreras, Heidi Martinez, Jennifer Martinez, Jennifer Vargas, Jennifer Vargas, Joaquin Contreras, Joaquin Martinez, Joaquin Vargas, Josephine Contreras, Josephine Martinez, Josephine Vargas, Karen Martinez, Karys Martinez, Marcella Contreras, Marcella Martinez, Marcella Vargas, Marisela Martinez, Martha Contreras, Martha Martinez, Martha Vargas, Marissa Contreras, Marissa Martinez, Marissa Vargas, Marcus Contreras, Marcus Martinez, Marcus Vargas, Melissa Contreras, Melissa Martinez, Melissa Vargas, Monica Contreras, Monica Martinez, Monica Vargas, Nidia Contreras, Nidia Martinez, Nidia Vargas, Norma Contreras, Norma Martinez, Norma Vargas, Patricia Martinez, Paulette Contreras, Paulette Martinez, Paulette Vargas, Rebecca Contreras, Rebecca Martinez, Rebecca Vargas, Rosalba Contreras, Rosalba Martinez, Rosalba Vargas, Selena Contreras, Selena Martinez, Selena Vargas, Tanya Contreras, Tanya Martinez, Tanya Vargas, Yolanda Contreras, Yolanda Martinez, Yolanda Vargas

2 Years
Front row, from left: Julia Bennett, Jacuelyn Bennett and Rose Bennett

10 Years
Front row, from left: Teri Trach, Thanb Trach and Sabrina Tolken, Back row, from left: Jennifer Quinones, Michael Romoura and Linda Sendig

5 Years
Front row, from left: Lindsey Durao, Barbra Rocic, Brigitte Bermodes. Back row, from left: Nicholas Dalbianco, Valerie Billheimer, David Castellano

5 Years
Front row, from left: Kelly Wright, Perry Settlement III. Back row, from left: Rolando Ybarenas, Marianne Turner and Isatis Torres

Men: Angel Martinez, Mark Vargas, Carlos Martinez, James Martinez, Marcos Martinez, Michael Martinez, Miguel Martinez, Sarita Martinez, Trudy Martinez, Victor Martinez, Yvette Martinez

Women: Alana Contreras, Amanda Contreras, Angela Contreras, Angela Martinez, Angelica Martinez, Angela Vargas, Annette Contreras, Brenda Contreras, Brenda Martinez, Brenda Vargas, Brittany Contreras, Celeste Contreras, Celeste Martinez, Christina Contreras, Cynthia Martinez, Diana Contreras, Diana Martinez, Donna Martinez, Donna Vargas, Erica Martinez, Erica Vargas, Erika Contreras, Erika Martinez, Esmeralda Martinez, Erica Martinez, Fernando Contreras, Fernando Martinez, Fernando Vargas, Gisela Martinez, Gisela Vargas, Heidi Contreras, Heidi Martinez, Jennifer Martinez, Jennifer Vargas, Jennifer Vargas, Joaquin Contreras, Joaquin Martinez, Joaquin Vargas, Josephine Contreras, Josephine Martinez, Josephine Vargas, Karen Martinez, Karys Martinez, Marcella Contreras, Marcella Martinez, Marcella Vargas, Marisela Martinez, Martha Contreras, Martha Martinez, Martha Vargas, Marissa Contreras, Marissa Martinez, Marissa Vargas, Marcus Contreras, Marcus Martinez, Marcus Vargas, Melissa Contreras, Melissa Martinez, Melissa Vargas, Monica Contreras, Monica Martinez, Monica Vargas, Nidia Contreras, Nidia Martinez, Nidia Vargas, Norma Contreras, Norma Martinez, Norma Vargas, Patricia Martinez, Paulette Contreras, Paulette Martinez, Paulette Vargas, Rebecca Contreras, Rebecca Martinez, Rebecca Vargas, Rosalba Contreras, Rosalba Martinez, Rosalba Vargas, Selena Contreras, Selena Martinez, Selena Vargas, Tanya Contreras, Tanya Martinez, Tanya Vargas, Yolanda Contreras, Yolanda Martinez, Yolanda Vargas

2 Years
Front row, from left: Julia Bennett, Jacuelyn Bennett and Rose Bennett

4 Years
Front row, from left: Sophia Navarro, Fernando Mejia and Misty Paz

5 Years
Front row, from left: Lindsey Durao, Barbra Rocic, Brigitte Bermodes. Back row, from left: Nicholas Dalbianco, Valerie Billheimer, David Castellano

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Women: Alana Contreras, Amanda Contreras, Angela Contreras, Angela Martinez, Angelica Martinez, Angela Vargas, Annette Contreras, Brenda Contreras, Brenda Martinez, Brenda Vargas, Brittany Contreras, Celeste Contreras, Celeste Martinez, Christina Contreras, Cynthia Martinez, Diana Contreras, Diana Martinez, Donna Martinez, Donna Vargas, Erica Martinez, Erica Vargas, Erika Contreras, Erika Martinez, Esmeralda Martinez, Erica Martinez, Fernando Contreras, Fernando Martinez, Ferna
Congratulations on your service!

HONOREES

15 Years

- Ingle, Richard
- Lewelling, Vernon
- Walls, Ferdinand (Sonny)

40 Years

- Chavez, J
- Garcia, Stephen
- Gutierrez, Antonio
- Jameson, Michael
- Mendes, Arthur
- Orozco, Richard
- Rosales Jr, Jess
- Wheeler, Brian
- Wong, Shelley

35 Years

- Barker, John
- Becerra, Sylvia
- Beveridge, Cari
- De Soto, Magdalena
- Hurdado, Susan
- Lerma, Carolyn
- Mat, Sheryl
- Mazza, Norma
- Meyers, Jeffrey
- Trinkle, Trudy
- Tucker, Paula

30 Years

- Osborn, Jerry
- Peck, Harold
- Ramos, Ralph
- Rogers, James

25 Years

- Anthony, Maximillii
- Beck, Frank
- Best, Shelley
- Collins, Paul
- Evans, Jason
- Hunt, Shelley
- Juarez, Raymond

10 Years

- Munson, Darryl
- Popovich, Margaret
- Sanchez, Lucia
- Viera, Frank
- Wallace, Carol
- Weldon, John
- Whitley Il, Cleve

20 Years

- Alvarado, George
- Burton, Sandra
- Behout, Robert
- Berme, Josh
- Bowhay, Michael
- Breckenridge, Will
- Duhel, Justin
- De Font, Georgia
- Fields, Kenneth
- Furtado Il, Daniel
- Garcia-Fajugades, Emy
- Glover, Dave
- Gonzales, Brandon
- Hathaway, Kenneth
- Heir, James
- Herrera, Angel
- Hirtzel, Joshua
- Holland, Dianavan
- Horai, Warren
- Johnson, Eric
- Kiefer, Dennis
- Krupens, Douglas
- Laskey, Justin
- Levimon, Gina
- Lombe, Gino
- Luna, Jose
- McKell, Jonathan
- Mendez, Louis
- Mills, Daniel
- Myras, Chad
- Nelmo O Connell, Ginger
- Nelson, Mike
- Palacios, Maria
- Petropulos, Tim
- Poule, Darren
- Rankog, Robert
- Reyes, Enrique
- Richards, Ronald
- Sakaguchi, Maria
- Sanchez, Vencencia
- Segura, Rigoberto
- Segura, Timothy
- Vardanyan, Manik
- Walker, Mark

15 Years

- Agular, Juan
- Audelo, Edward
- Ayala, Antonio
- Baldrey, Robert
- Berlanga, Domingue
- Brown, Valerio
- Bryan, Russell
- Bunker, Jerry
- Burnett, Robin
- Camacho, Jana
- Campbell, Kristine
- Chumley, Bryce
- Commander Jr, Amos
- De La Torres Alvarez, Maria
- Fabini, Sara
- Fleming, Grant
- Fuentes, Maria
- Garret, Richard
- Gibbs, Ken
- Guzman, Aaron
- Harris, Michael
- Harrison, Mitch
- Hayes, Jeremy
- Hebert Il, Norman
- Hogen, John
- Johnson Jr, Dean
- Jones, Michael
- Junkins, Stephen
- Kincade, Amanda
- Krugh, Michael
- Lansberry, Melinda
- Lepe, Severo
- Mat, Ivy
- Mayes, Heather
- McCloskey, Joanna
- McCormick, Andrew
- Medina, Michael
- Montaño, Mark
- Napier, Renatta
- Olage, Kathy
- Parker, Maxine
- Polgore, Justin
- Potts, Benjamin
- Ramírez, Alfon
- Reyes, Diana
- Scaduto, Mike
- Scheidt, Jennifer
- Smith, Justin
- Thompson, Michael
- Turpin, Brian
- Volperti, Dan
- Woodward, Mark
- Workentine, Mark

10 Years

- Alvarado, Alain
- Alverz, Regina
- Andersen, William
- Baker, Jeradub
- Baker, Jesse
- Bharti, U. Ahmad
- Blackwell, Nick
- Block, Chuck
- Bragg, Brian
- Burkhardt, Jami
- Cassillas, Frank
- Casillas, Joshua
- Cacarelli, David
- Cox, Katrina
- De La Cruz, Eddie
- Derouche, Joanna
- Deftall, Patrick
- Fleming, Raquel
- Flores, Justin
- Flores, Frank
- Full, Laramie
- Garcia, Minnieette
- Garcia, John
- Gaul, Wendy
- Gerardo, Connie
- Giannopoulos, Jasmine
- Gezmundo, Gruzmundo
- Guzman, Artemisa
- Guzman, Tony
- Heine, Timothy
- Hennington, Mike
- Henner, Chad
- Ko, Joseph
- Li, Celesi
- Luna, Joseph
- Madaleno, Sandra
- Maludonado, Moses
- Martín, Anthony
- Martinez, Manuel
- Martinez, Blanca
- Martinez, Michelle
- Mattos, Jason
- Manon, Veronica
- McFadden, Jermaine
- Mendosa, Ignacio
- Mendosa, Jose
- Moreno, Edgar
- Mulligan, Shane
- Nino, Daniel
- Obreg, James
- O’Dell, Joshua
- Oreg, Luis
- Pagan, Michael
- Patton, Landon
- Pedon, Patricia
- Pennington, Michelle
- Perez, Nelson
- Perez, Alethia
- Perkins, Michael
- Pineda, Rudy
- Reed, Craig
- Reyva, Alvaro
- Rivera, Raquel
- Roark, Aaron
- Rodriguez, Maria
- Santarelli, Kevin
- Sara, Justin
- Salda, Danny
- Simon, Kenneth

Front row, from left: Sirah Rodriguez and Lynn Thak. Back row, from left: Betty Trujillo and Greg Simmons

5 Years

- Garcia, John
- Gaul, Wendy
- Gerardo, Connie
- Giannopoulos, Jasmine
- Gezmundo, Gruzmundo
- Guzman, Artemisa
- Guzman, Tony
- Heine, Timothy
- Hennington, Mike
- Henner, Chad
- Ko, Joseph
- Li, Celesi
- Luna, Joseph
- Madaleno, Sandra
- Maludonado, Moses
- Martín, Anthony
- Martinez, Manuel
- Martinez, Blanca
- Martinez, Michelle
- Mattos, Jason
- Manon, Veronica
- McFadden, Jermaine
- Mendosa, Ignacio
- Mendosa, Jose
- Moreno, Edgar
- Mulligan, Shane
- Nino, Daniel
- Obreg, James
- O’Dell, Joshua
- Oreg, Luis
- Pagan, Michael
- Patton, Landon
- Pedon, Patricia
- Pennington, Michelle
- Perez, Nelson
- Perez, Alethia
- Perkins, Michael
- Pineda, Rudy
- Reed, Craig
- Reyva, Alvaro
- Rivera, Raquel
- Roark, Aaron
- Rodriguez, Maria
- Santarelli, Kevin
- Sara, Justin

Front row, from left: Jenny Martinez, Jordan Griffin and Mayra Rodriguez. Back row, from left: Brenda Hernandez, Clay Fast and Christina Dunn

5 Years Front row, from left: Cedrick Thomas and David Sauseda. Back row, from left: Lorenzo Garcia, Jane Maples and Enelida Nunez

Utility Reporter 37
SERVICE AWARDS
San Francisco
April 21, 2017

35 Years
From left: Cindy Jew-Szeto, Alton Seyford and Clara Morales

25 Years
Front row, from left: Gerardo Delfin and Allen Tong. Back row, from left: Stephen Lee, Craig Ramirez and Alexander Wong

5 Years
Front row, from left: William Murphy and Kham Dang. Back row, from left: Luca Dell'abbate and Kenneth Thompson

15 Years
Front row, from left: Kevin Corrigan, Kathy Olage and Thomas Saruwatari. Back row, from left: Ricardo Cano, Charles Smethurst, Carl Koontz, Joel Tabuno and Jesus Ochoa

10 Years
From left: Doli Lee, Veronica Jones and Ross McNall

Congratulations on your service!

HONOREES
50 Years
Thompson, Theosophus

45 Years
Abracosa, Renato Dermond, Phil Dickson, Emma Fassio, Kenneth Swan, Wai Han McElrath, Marshall

40 Years
Andoh, Diann Gates, Edward Harrington, Dolores Hom, Patty

35 Years
Jew-Szeto, Cindy Fassio, Kenneth Kwan, Wai Han McElrath, Marshall

30 Years
Hargler, Lenoris Wong, Connie Agius, John

Artates, David Berndt, Prescott Burs, Julius Canaya, Erwin Dagenaas, Christopher Erazo, Osvaldo Far, Steve Harrington, Rod Johnson, Ronald Lafon, Anthony Louie, Herbert Reginato, Steve Rodriguez, Luis Salgado, Bulmaro Smith, Shalona Thompson, Andrew Tom, Pamela Traverso, Tony Veyra, Seruflat Villanueva, Francisco

15 Years
Acapible, Francis Arazenda, Alex Arbizu, Steve Cano, Ricardo Corrigan, Kevin Calpepper, Kevin Diaz, Jorge Islas, John Kaddas, James Kefi, Siosi Koontz, Carl Li, Luis Lombre, Travis Marty, Henry Miranda, Nicolas Nalam, Vince Ramil, Vic

Saruwatari, Thomas Seveta Jr., Marcos Silva, Dallas Simmons, Ronald Smethurst, Charles Steemers, Nicholas Toy, Yardley Vong, Eddy Kai Wall, Michael

10 Years
Bustamante, Sergio Cardenas, Ramon Charlie, Jarrod Cleaver, Steven Compton, Jamar Deaton, Mark Ehrada, Daniel Elacio, Eric Escalada, Paulo Waldo

Gonzalez, Felix Gonzalez, Fabian Harrington, Johnny Kern, Donald Kumar, Mukesh Lee, Doli Lockhart, Michael McNall, Ross Nieve, Kevin Perez, Francisco Portugal, Mark Price, Mercury Reyes, Cristina Sandeval, Mitchell Shipman Jr., Zummer

Singh, Kesh Sullivan, Shane Tunnere, David Watson, Gary

Masong, Jaime Merkner, Andrew Montellanos, Michael Murphy, Michael Nelson, Chase Perales-Alcazar, Dena Prva, Kevin Porter, Michael Radov, Cory Ramerez, Michael Rojas, Deleon Shui, Andrew Sohn, Jesus Tran, Johnny Vera, Renato Vison, Cong Willis, Bryan

Photos by John Storey

40 Years
Front row, from left: Dolores Harrington and Patty Hom. Back row, from left: Mark McCloud and Diann Andoh

20 Years
From left: Rod Harrington with Business Rep. Roberto Balistreri
You could win $500 in the IBEW 1245 Photo Contest

One winner will be selected each quarter, so you have four chances to win each year.

Photos should be job-related. Each prize is $500.

Open to all active IBEW 1245 members. Members may submit up to five photos each quarter. Submissions should be in a high-resolution format, and must be received by the first of the month in January, April, July and October. Winners will be announced later that month at the quarterly Advisory Council meeting.

Photo submissions should be sent to Communications Director Rebecca Lund: rgb1@ibew1245.com (if your image size is large, make sure it went through) or by mail: P.O. Box 2547, Veeville CA 96696.

By submitting a photo, the photographer grants permission to the Union to publish it on the internet and in printed materials.

A heartfelt congrats to the winner of our quarterly photo contest, Nick Rains! Brother Rains is a 10-year member who works for Liberty Energy. He received his $500 prize at the Reno Awards Dinner on July 21, 2017. The deadline to submit photos for the next quarterly photo contest is Oct. 1. Please send high-res photo submissions to rgb1@ibew1245.com. Limit five photo submissions per member, per quarter.

Nick Rains speaks at the Reno Pin Dinner where Business Manager Tom Dalzell awarded the $500 prize.
LABOR DAY 2017

This long weekend is brought to you by the blood, sweat and tears of the Labor Movement.

America runs on Labor.