Working above, Al Lindquist (left) and Nate Fuchs hold cables for Tyler Thompson (left, in vault) and Tito Barrientos to cut in an underground vault in San Francisco. Story begins on page 18.

Photo by John Storey
Bankruptcy Field of Play

2017 claims 2018 claims
Inverse condemnation (strict liability)
Risk pool - Regionalization CCAs
Municipalization - Wildfire mitigation
Negligence - safe harbor / unsafe harbor
Bankruptcy - contract / staffing
Environment - Bankruptcy / gas
Grid hardening

The bankruptcy is extremely complicated and has huge implications for our members — those employed by PG&E, those employed by line clearance tree trimming companies, and those employed by outside construction contractors. And some of the policies being called into question around the bankrupcy could affect our members at public utilities as well. Ultimately, the events of the next few months will impact us all. The issues before us, and the politics at play, are not straightforward. In order to help visualize the Field of Play, I have created the graphic below.

The red inner circle shows the various issues that are directly or indirectly involved in PG&E’s bankruptcy: resolving claims from the 2017 and 2018 fires; the perpetual problem of strict liability and inverse condemnation; a potential risk pool that would cover climate-driven claims going forward; the regionalization of the grid; the rise of Community Choice Aggregation (CCAs); municipalization; wildfire mitigation issues; establishing a legal bar for negligence that would change the outlook for utilities that adequately maintain their infrastructure; the multitude of contract and staffing issues that arise in a bankruptcy; environmental concerns and clean energy goals; the threat of a sale of part of the company; and the critical grid hardening work that’s needed as climate change advances.

In the intermediary orange circle are the different forums where wildfire and liability issues are being discussed, including the state legislature, the Public Utilities Commission, CalFire and others. And the outer yellow circle lists some of the different players and figures who are actively involved in the process. We don’t have an equal interest with each player — as events unfold, they align in different ways and form ever-shifting alliances which, on occasion, actually line up as you might expect. We have neither the time nor the money to be involved with every issue in every forum, and so we monitor all of them, triage and prioritize where we can be most effective.

But you can rest assured that the IBEW 1245 staff is working day and night (and overtime) to protect your jobs and minimize the threat to our members. We have brought in lawyers, lobbyists, consultants and benefits professionals to advocate for you at every turn. We fought hard to get our own Doug Girouard a seat on the Unsecured Creditors Committee, which is responsible for devising a reorganization plan and supervising the process (unions rarely, if ever, get a spot on this committee) when employers enter bankruptcy. Full story on page 5). And we are crafting a solution that will protect our members and help the company emerge in a stable financial position. It is times like these when I am most grateful for the strength of our union. Over the past two decades we have saved your dues money in anticipation of events like this one — so we can hire the very best lawyers and consultants and fight just as hard as the hedge funds, trial lawyers, and other special interests that we’re up against.

Over the course of my 38 years with Local 1245, no fight has demanded more and consumed more of me than this bankruptcy. And although this is the most difficult battle we have ever faced, we have been here before, and we are prepared to fight.

I can’t tell you with 100% certainty what will happen next — but I can tell you that we will leave no stone unturned, no path unexplored, and that we will fight like hell to protect your job and your family. And when it is time to appear before the bankruptcy judge, I will be standing there as your advocate.

New Executive Board Member Sworn In

Twenty-three year IBEW 1245 member Scott Hudelson has been appointed to the vacant Outside Construction and Line Clearance Tree Trimming seat on the IBEW 1245 Executive Board. The seat was formerly held by longtime Board member Mike Cottrell, who recently announced his retirement from the union.

Brother Hudelson is an outside construction journeyman lineman currently employed by Pro Energy Services. He was sworn in by Local 1245 President Art Freitas during a meeting of the Executive Board on March 22.
heartfelt congrats to IBEW 1245 member Nick Rains, winner of the IBEW International Photo Contest! Brother Rains beat out submissions from dozens of other locals to come out on top in the annual contest.

According to the IBEW International website:

To get a picture of just how much snow fell on Lake Tahoe in January 2017 you’d need NBA legend Shaquille O’Neal; and then another to stand on his shoulders; and one more. Two African elephants stacked one atop the other would come close.

Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 member Nicholas Rains and three of his IBEW brothers standing on one another’s heads would still have been buried three feet from view.

From New Year’s Day to February 1, more than 25 feet of crystal mountain powder fell out of the sky, burying everything, including the electrical grid connecting South Lake Taheoe’s 21,000 residents to the rest of the world.

“The storm was so violent,” Rains said. “The trees were so snow-loaded, it was so cold out, your nose was purple, any exposed skin was hurting so bad.”

But, he said, this is why being a lineman is the best job in the Brotherhood.

“Everyone made the best of it,” he said. “We were really loving our job.”

Rains image of that moment created an avalanche of support that won him the 20th Annual IBEW Photo Contest.

This same photo was also selected as the winning image for the IBEW 1245 photo contest back in the summer of 2017.

Additionally, a special shout-out to IBEW 1245 member Jordan Skarda, who nabbed an honorable mention in this year’s contest.

The first Honorable Mention captures the end of the day and 30-hour shift that started long before that day began. Vacaville, Calif., Local 1245 members Jordan Skarda, KC Nancolas and Kevin Claggett were on their final job, repairing an open jumper on a pole in the foothills near Cayucos, Calif. As the sun went down and the helicopter lifted off, Skarda scampered up a hill to try and take it all in.

The California sun — peeking between the fog and the clouds setting Whale Rock Reservoir aglow — has a way of bewitching people.

Brother Skarda also won the IBEW 1245 quarterly photo contest in January of 2018.

Way to make us proud, brothers!

View all the winners at www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles/19Daily/1902/190225_20thAnnualPhotoContest.
The PG&E bankruptcy is shaping up to be one of the biggest, lengthiest and most complex bankruptcy cases to ever pass through the American court system. And while much of the fate of the company rests in the hands of the judge and U.S. Trustees assigned to oversee the case, there are countless other power players who hold quite a bit of influence over the outcomes — not the least of whom are the state lawmakers in Sacramento, who have the ability to enact and reform laws that could be a benefit or detriment to more than 12,000 IBEW 1245-represented members at PG&E.

These legislators are hearing a lot from the various parties who have a stake in the outcome, including hedge funds, lawyers, and other investors and creditors — and IBEW 1245 is ensuring that they hear directly from the utility’s own workers as well. On March 5, a diverse group of IBEW 1245 members — including seven organizing stewards and nine members of Local 1245’s newly formed Emergency Response Team (ERT) — arrived at the state capitol, with the goal of meeting directly with every state legislator in PG&E’s service area to explain their perspective on the bankruptcy.

Upon arrival, the group split up into smaller teams and set out on their mission. As they went from one legislative office to the next, they strived to underscore the importance of maintaining a skilled and trained utility workforce during and after bankruptcy, which is essential to energy reliability, safety of the energy and gas systems, consumer service, emergency response and wildfire reduction through hardening the system. The 1245 delegation urged legislators to take steps to ensure that the collective bargaining agreement with PG&E is maintained unadulterated post-bankruptcy, and that the pension is not harmed or altered.

They also called on the legislators to address California’s outdated policy of applying strict liability or “inverse condemnation” on PG&E and other utilities, including both investor-owned companies and publicly owned agencies. As long as utilities are responsible for all fires that involve their infrastructure, regardless of negligence, they cannot achieve financial viability. This means PG&E will be unable to operate effectively, finance vital fire reduction and safety projects, or fund the work needed to meet California’s aggressive renewable energy goals. Local 1245 has been advocating for reform of this hazardous policy for quite some time and will not give up until the issue is addressed.

The union members also helped the legislators understand the potential pitfalls of allowing communities to municipalize the utility infrastructure. IBEW 1245 maintains the position that municipalization is not financially plausible or legally viable, nor is it in the best interest of electric customers or workers, and should be dismissed.

As they entered each legislative office, the members-turned-lobbyists worked to identify who among the legislators will stand up for the workers and the customers they serve during and after the bankruptcy. At the end of the day, they reported the majority of lawmakers were quite receptive to their message and willing to keep the union’s position in mind as things move forward.

“We are so fortunate to have a Local that is both active politically, and involves its members at a grassroots level,” said Organizing Steward Kevin Krummes, who participated in the Lobby Day. “Being part of 1245’s legislative tactics in a great honor. I like seeing the process and being a small part of it, and I’ll gladly come back whenever needed.”

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director
PG&E Bankruptcy Update: IBEW 1245 Secures a Seat on the Unsecured Creditors Committee

In a major development in the PG&E bankruptcy case, and a significant victory for the union and its members, IBEW 1245 has secured a seat on the unsecured creditors committee.

In order to increase creditor participation, section 1102 of the Bankruptcy Code requires that the United States Trustee appoint a committee of unsecured creditors as soon as practicable. As such, a creditors' committee has broad rights and responsibilities, including devising a reorganization plan for bankrupt companies and/or deciding what, if anything, should be liquidated. The committee must have at least three participants; one of the committee has secured the bankruptcy has nine. The nine members of the committee are BOKF, N.A., Duetsche Bank National Trust Co., Western Asset Management Co., Nexa Energy Inc, Roebbelin Contracting Inc, Davey Tree Co, G4S Secure Solutions (USA) Inc, IBEW Local 1245 and the Pension Benefit Corporation.

"Unions rarely, if ever, get a spot on the unsecured creditors committee when employers enter bankruptcy," said IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. "When we met with legislators and regulators in Sacramento this week, we were all very impressed with the fact that IBEW 1245 has secured a coveted seat on this powerful committee."

Local 1245 has chosen staff member Doug Girouard as the union's representative on this committee. Girouard has been working with IBEW 1245 for six years, and his responsibilities include IT operations, systems development, and financial analysis. Accomplishments to better serve the members of 1245 include design and implementation of a web-based pension calculator to facilitate comparison of traditional versus cash balance pension plan options; design and implementation of an electronic document library system and associated content-based search engine; member information system enhancements; and modernization of accounting systems. He also acts as Trustee Chair for the IBEW 1245 Pension Plan.

"Doug is one of the exceedingly rare people who can understand not only the mathematical complexities of an economic issue but also the law that governs its implementation," said Senior Assistant Business Manager Bob Dean. "We are very fortunate to have him on staff and representing us on this committee."

IBEW 1245 Speaks Out Against CPUC Decision to Cease Redacting Names in its Upcoming Report

The union is outraged to learn that the CPUC's Safety Enforcement Division plans to make the names of many hourly employees public in its upcoming report on how PG&E complies with requests to 'locate and mark' underground facilities prior to excavation in the area. In a post-wildfire environment where many frontline PG&E employees have already received death threats — although they had nothing to do with the fires, except for their heroic contributions to rebuilding the grid in the disaster's aftermath — this move by the PUC would only serve to make a difficult situation even worse for these dedicated, hard-working individuals.

Up until now, it has been standard operating procedure to redact the names of such workers, as it should be. I want to make one thing perfectly clear: departing from this policy and releasing the names of people who are working hard to make the system safer puts them in immediate jeopardy and presents a general privacy concern that should not be taken lightly. We strongly urge the Safety Enforcement Division to promptly reconsider this totally unjustified decision, and in the interest of public safety, redact all the names of frontline workers in this report.

The Coalition of California Utility Employees, of which IBEW 1245 is a part of, has fired an emergency motion with the CPUC to amend this decision and load the motion http://bit.ly/2uTDuEs. — Tom Dalzell, IBEW 1245 Business Manager

Member Perspective: Thanks from a Camp Fire Survivor

I just wanted to say “Thank you” to all that was involved from the IBEW for the assistance for the Camp Fire survivors. My family and I very much appreciate it. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

— Love O'Mary, IBEW 1245 member and PG&E Maintenance Assistant, Gas & R

Splitting Up PG&E Would Not Make It Safer

On Feb. 22, a misleading opinion article appeared in the Sacramento Bee with the headline, “PG&E says splitting utility would improve wildfire safety, but there’s a downside.” We’d like to take a moment to set the record straight and dispel some misinformation.

In the article, columnist Dale Kasler cites PG&E's latest CPUC filing and erroneously claims that the company document indicates that separating the gas and electric operations would increase customer safety. While the quotes that he excerpts in his column do appear in the filing, they were taken entirely out of context. In truth, the filing states that separating gas and electric could reduce the risk managed by each entity, but only after explaining how a split doesn’t inherently reduce the total risk.

The filing clearly states:

"Any discussion of the effect of corporate structure changes on a utility's safety and performance must recognize that the exposure, drivers, frequency, and consequences of risks remain unchanged, regardless of corporate structure or ownership of utility operations. Whereas changes to corporate governance and management have the potential to directly affect safety, changes to corporate structure can affect safety risks only indirectly and, in some cases, may simply shift risk from one legal entity to another. For instance, a gas-only entity would not be exposed directly to the risks associated with electric operations but those risks would nevertheless still exist and directly impact the electric business. There are, however, certain corporate structures that may prove better for implementing and overseeing a comprehensive enterprise risk management system and thus positively affect safety performance. An evaluation of alternative structures should consider both the potential benefits as well as the time and resources required to implement and align those new structures."

The filing also identifies several downsides to such a split — but in Kasler’s column, he only discusses the potential for higher rates. The filing is long and technical, and we don’t believe Kasler intended to mislead readers — more likely, he simply misunderstood the complexities and as a result, drew a faulty conclusion. IBEW 1245 has reached out to the Sacramento Bee to request that they issue a correction.

Local 1245 firmly believes that our members, as well as the millions of customers in PG&E’s service area, are best served through continuity, and that means maintaining PG&E’s current structure, which includes both the gas and electric businesses. The union has and will continue to oppose any sale or breakup of the company.
for the last 40 years, the House of Labor has been under assault by powerful, moneyed forces that would like nothing more than to see unions become a thing of the past. From union-busting campaigns, to so-called “Right to Work” policies, to efforts to weaken and de-fund unions through court cases such as Janus vs AFSCME, there’s no question that our opponents have a wealth of anti-union knowledge and tactics at their disposal — and they’ve been exercising this knowledge and power, to the detriment of working people across the nation.

But the good news is that the Labor Movement is building power through knowledge as well, thanks to a growing cohort of pro-worker academics and thought leaders, including longtime IBEW friend and ally, Professor Gordon Lafer. A political economist, researcher, author and well-known lecturer at the University of Oregon, Lafer offers working-class advocates the opportunity to understand exactly how and why anti-union forces are undercutting workers at every turn — and what we can do to effectively fight back on behalf of all of the working families who have been negatively impacted by these corporate-backed attacks.

In what has become an annual tradition, Lafer returned to Weakley Hall on March 23 for his third annual workshop just for IBEW 1245 members. A dynamic group of 112 members — including many of who had never participated in any sort of union organizing activity before — volunteered to spend their Saturday at the day-long workshop. The extraordinary turnout was a product of methodical outreach and follow-up conducted by lead organizing stewards, with support from IBEW 1245 business reps and staff organizers. The fact that so many dedicated their day off to come to the hall is indicative of the growing interest in and commitment to keeping the union strong in a time of unprecedented challenges on all sides.

IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell kicked off the day by acknowledging the dedication of the members who have invested their time and energy into making 1245 one of the strongest and most powerful local unions in the nation. He described the monumental impact that Local 1245’s member-driven organizing program has had in effecting politics and policies that impact workers in both California and Nevada, articulating the many wins we’ve racked up thanks to this growing wave of activism. He spent some time answering questions from the members, including a number of questions regarding the PG&E bankruptcy, all the while underscoring the value of worker-led collective action — not just at PG&E, but at all utility-related employers that stand to be impacted by the current and future political landscape.

IBEW 1245 Staff Organizer Fred Ross Jr. proceeded to introduce Professor Lafer, who offered three eye-opening presentations to the group. The first session focused on the attacks on labor in the public sector, including an overview of anti-union “Right to Work” laws and the recent Janus vs AFSCME Supreme Court case. Lafer then moved into an overview of the power players and architects behind the corporate assault on American workers, linking together the public sector fights with those occurring in the private sector. Finally, Lafer evaluated some of the Labor Movement’s most successful counter-offensives, including 1245’s own highly effective organizing program, which is largely recognized as one of the most ground-breaking and transformative programs in the nation.

After each presentation, the members in attendance broke into groups and discussed how they could use the
information that Lafer presented to build union strength. They examined some of the common questions and anti-union rhetoric they encounter in their everyday lives, and imagined how they might apply some of their newfound knowledge to such conversations, approaching each interaction as an opportunity to inform and engage their fellow workers.

For six-year IBEW member Zavi Heiland, a system operator at PG&E’s Grid Control Center in Vacaville, the workshop re-ignited a passion for labor history and union organizing that has been burning inside her ever since she was a teenager. Heiland has been ardent about effecting change for her entire adult life, and the information that Lafer presented resonated with her on a profound level.

“I want to get more involved in terms of defending workers’ rights, especially with the 40-year employers’ offensive [against labor] that we have seen, and the effects on the living standards of the working class in the country as a whole,” she said, referring to some of the information cited in Lafer’s presentation. “I want to contribute to the fight against a lot of the attacks that the corporations have brought on us.”

“The knowledge that I gained today ... I feel like I can share that with the other people that I work with. I want to let the people in the Grid Control Center know about the level of organizing that the union is involved in,” she added.

While Heiland came to the workshop with a substantial base of knowledge about Labor’s role as defenders of the middle class, many of her fellow members in attendance were hearing much of this information for the first time. A fourth-generation IBEW member, PG&E Lineman Daniel Morrison was relatively unaware of the full extent of the concerted attacks on working families before attending the workshop. He found Lafer’s presentation incredibly eye-opening and intends to make good use of the information.

“You hear about this stuff kind of in passing on the news, and it’s not really something that I ever cared that much about before — but I do now,” he said. “I’m definitely going to research more on it. I hope to become more active in the whole organizing aspect of the union, and I think a lot of this will come handy for that.”

PG&E Gas Service Rep Phil Wiltens also found the information that Lafer offered to be highly utilitarian. He was particularly struck by how anti-union forces have effectively divided the working class, something he recalls from his own upbringing.

“I grew up in a non-union family that had resentment for those union employees that had a better deal than we did,” he said, noting the shift in perspective he experienced when he joined the IBEW. “The union has given me a tremendous amount of opportunities. I appreciate what it’s done for me, and I see the attacks on workers like us, so I’m here to be part of the effort to maintain our strength … I speak with the new employees that come into the PG&E on their first day, and I can take what I learned today to help educate the next generation and help keep our current members strong.”

For Lead Organizing Steward Brittney Santana, who works as a first field clerk for PG&E in Fresno, this wasn’t the first time she’d heard all of this information, but she still found the experience to be highly motivating.

“I think it’s important to take the information back to our work groups and be as informative as possible, try to mobilize them, get them involved, get them to our unit meetings or a training like this one … so we have the opportunity to get the ‘organizing bug’ in them, like we have it in ourselves,” she said.

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director

112 members attended the workshop with Gordon Lafer on March 23.

Photos by John Storey


California’s family child care providers and early childhood educators do the jobs that allow hundreds of thousands of working parents to do theirs. But unfortunately, these hard-working, dedicated care providers are often struggling just to get by. They work long hours with few, if any, benefits and devastatingly low pay (many providers that serve low-income families through state-funded programs are being paid well below the market rate). As a result, far too many child care providers are forced to go out of business, which has created a widespread child care shortage across the state.

These providers know exactly what needs to be done to fix this broken system — and it starts with a seat at the table and the right to collectively bargain, not only for themselves, but for the families they serve and the young children in their care.

In partnership with the California Labor Federation, two unions — SEIU and UDW-AFSCME — have launched a campaign work to represent the union.

“Many of the Local 1245 members who participated in this blitz have never been involved in a union organizing campaign of this nature before, and they found the experience incredibly rewarding and eye-opening,” said new Organizing Steward Steward David Jensen. “For my first campaign, this was a great learning opportunity and I look forward to more campaigns to represent the union.”

For Organizing Steward Gabby Baker, this campaign hit very close to home. “As a mother, I truly understand the importance of having reliable child care and for the child care providers to have reasonable pay and much needed respect.”

As a mother, I truly understand the importance of having reliable child care and for the child care providers to have reasonable pay and much needed respect. I used a home licensed child care provider when my daughter was much younger, and my provider was heaven-sent,” said Baker. “The highlight of this campaign was definitely the excitement the providers displayed when they found out exactly what we were there for, and the change that is coming!”

Lead Organizing Steward Melissa Echeverria recalled an interaction with a Fresno care provider that exemplified the importance of the organizing effort.

“Yvette has been in child care for more than two decades. Although she plans to retire in two years, she knows that in order to change their broken system, from their incredibly low wages which could be as low as $2.70/hr, to not receiving any healthcare benefits, they need a contract, a union,” Echeverria reported. “She said her one voice isn’t strong enough, but the voices of thousands of providers standing up, speaking out … she’s confident that she’ll be able to be in a union contract before she retires!”

For Organizing Steward Danielle Bonds, being able to sign providers up as union members was remarkably empowering. “I love how working with Child Care Providers United pushed me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to help these dedicated providers,” said Bonds. “By speaking to them, I was able to see the compassion and motivation in their eyes. They love what they do, and it made me proud to be a part of this powerful blitz throughout California.”

Thanks to the support from IBEW 1245 and other unions, the campaign met and exceeded its goals across the state, and is well on its way towards securing union benefits and protections for the unsung heroes who are charged with cultivating the minds of California’s future leaders.

“I was awe of the results that were delivered by the blitz, and can see the seeds now planted for rapid growth,” said Organizing Steward Greg Simmons. “This campaign was historic, as multiple unions from across the state came together for one common goal — educating childcare providers in California,” added Lead Organizing Steward Alvin Dayan. “Everyone in the campaign appreciated our help, and I truly enjoyed working with our IBEW organizing team. We made our union proud during this campaign.”

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245

Communications Director

Local 1245 Members Attend IBEW Customer Service Summit

Three members from IBEW 1245 traveled to Seattle, Washington for the 13th annual Customer Service Summit, hosted by IBEW Local 77. This summit presents a unique opportunity for IBEW members working in the customer service field all across the US and Canada to connect with and learn from one another.

“Having the opportunity to meet with other union members from around the country was inspiring and exhilarating,” said nine-year IBEW 1245 member Rhiana Thomas, who works at the PG&E & contact center in Sacramento. “The experience has opened my eyes to how important the role is as a union member to not only be engaged, but to motivate others to be more active as well.”

PG&E Customer Service Rep Spencer Lee, who joined Local 1245 in 2017, was blown away when he learned about the struggles that customer service reps in other parts of the country are going through.

“I haven’t been involved with any union before, so I simply thought the things we have here were universal,” he said. “But learning about other union members’ battles for some of the things we already have was almost enraging. It really taught me the importance of fighting — not just for us at Local 1245, but for any union that calls for our aid.”

The summit included a wide range of activities and presentations on topics ranging from pathways to leadership, to building union strength, to excelling in the field of customer service and more.

Local 1245 member Anthony Corales, who works at PG&E’s Fresno contact center, found one of the conference presentations to be particularly impactful. Betsy Haas, MA, provided a unique and engaging look at the different personality types that customer service workers may encounter, and Corales left that session with a new-found perspective on interpersonal communication.

“The main thing I obtained from this [presentation] was the importance of understanding WHICH type of person you’re interacting with and adjusting your response, demeanor, and actions accordingly,” he said. “[Haas] left an everlasting impression, and takeaways that will guide me in dealing with both internal and external customers.”

Overall, the Local 1245 delegation left the summit feeling powerful, energized and inspired.

“This experience has only brought fuel to my fire to fight for all of us,” said Lee. “I can’t wait to get more involved with the union and motivate others to come along for what’s going to be an exciting ride!” added Thomas.

From left: Anthony Corales, Rhiana Thomas and Spencer Lee made time for a little fun at the IBEW Customer Service Summit.
Thirteen IBEW 1245 members attended the 29th annual Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) leadership conference, which took place in mid-January in Houston, TX. This year’s conference centered around the theme of “Bridging the Divide: Standing United for Justice, Equity and Diversity,” and brought together minority members from dozens of IBEW locals across the US and Canada.

Before the conference officially began, the EWMC chapter leaders came together for the Breakthrough Leadership Training Institute, where they discussed leadership traits, mentorships, parliamentary procedure, and more. The full conference kicked off the following day with an impactful Day of Service, focusing on helping marginalized communities in the Houston area. Most of the Local 1245 delegation chose to volunteer at Houston’s Covenant House, a homeless shelter for teens and young adults.

“We spent our morning installing electrical outlets and cleaning panels, changing out light bulbs and installing lights in a utility room,” Local 1245 Organizing Steward Que Thompson reported. “The work we performed will help improve the priceless quality of life and overall safety of the residents.”

The rest of the conference was comprised of a wide variety of unique events, inspiring speeches, roundtable discussions and workshops, with topics ranging from organizing, to navigating pathways through the IBEW, to communication styles and more. The workshop that stuck out the most to many members of the 1245 delegation was called “Speaking from the Heart.” This interactive workshop empowered participants to understand the value of their own personal stories when it comes to building connections with others.

“I find it fascinating that everyone in the room had similar interests, especially when it comes to issues, struggles, and opportunities that we all share … such as prevailing wage, benefits, pensions, and the right to collective bargaining,” said Organizing Steward Alvin Dayoan. “After finding our common ground in the room, we had a chance to share our story and spoke from our hearts on why we are engaged and involved.”

For the 1245 organizing stewards, attending the EWMC conference allowed them to re-connect with members from other locals who they met while working on various campaigns. Organizing Steward Brittney Santana bumped into some IBEW activists she met on the No on Prop A campaign in Missouri, as well as the No on Question 3 campaign in Nevada.

“Seeing our brothers and sisters again and talking about our victories was so refreshing,” said Santana. “It reminds me that our brotherhood and sisterhood is so much bigger than our own local, it’s international. I’m so proud to say I’m an IBEW 1245 member!”

The conference attendees from 1245 left feeling invigorated, inspired, and ready to take on the challenges that lie ahead.

“The EWMC conference is such a powerful and necessary event. I look forward to it each year, and this year was no exception,” said Organizing Steward Charlotte Stevens. “The knowledge, fellowship, and encouragement you receive empowers you to fight that much harder and grow the membership.”

“I can’t believe how inspiring this training was and how far EWMC has come since its start,” said Organizing Steward Ivan Pereda. “The people were great and the workshops were intense and amazing.”

“Overall, it was an awesome experience and I am beyond grateful to be given the opportunity to attend,” said Organizing Steward Melissa Fernandez. “I definitely learned a lot, and it boosted my self-esteem for sure!”

“The minority caucus is more than just picket lines, we get involved in the community. It’s more than a party and having a good time, we are encouraged to take information back to our local to make it better and stronger,” added Organizing Steward Teofilo Freeman. “Attending this conference has motivated me to step up and feel empowered with leading the change in my community and my union.”

IBEW 1245 in Solidarity with Striking Oakland and Sacramento Teachers

IBEW 1245 staffers Al Fortier and Fred Ross Jr. stood in solidarity with Oakland teachers who went on strike on Feb. 21, 2019.

IBEW 1245 Organizing Stewards Nilda Garcia and Darla West, along with staffer Rene Cruz Martinez, joined the Sacramento teachers strike on April 11, 2019.
Every year, the National AFL-CIO honors the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. with a special conference focused entirely on civil and human rights, held over MLK Day weekend.

This year, three IBEW 1245 members attended the unique three-day conference in Washington DC. For all three 1245 delegates, this was their first trip to the nation’s capital, as well as their first time attending this conference, and they weren’t sure what to expect. But their experience proved to be remarkably powerful and inspirational. They had the opportunity to hear from a number of notable labor leaders, learn about MLK and the history of American civil rights, and hit the streets for a march and rally in support of federal workers who were impacted by the government shutdown (which was still in effect during the conference).

“I am so grateful to have had the chance to walk shoulder to shoulder with other union brothers and sisters who were out of work due to the government shutdown,” said 1245 Organizing Steward Brenda Balcazar, who works at the PG&E San Jose Call Center. “All the different unions coming together as one and marching together as one was great to see.”

“The main highlight for me was the Day of Action,” echoed IBEW 1245 Staff Organizer Rene Cruz Martinez. “We got to hear from IBEW 1245 longtime friend and IBEW sister, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, as well as National Nurse United Executive Director Bonnie Castillo, who called for an end to the federal shutdown. The rally was closed by CLUW President Elise Bryant who composed a ‘Stop the Shutdown’ song that got everyone fired up for the march.”

Sara Nelson, the president of the flight attendant’s union and the figure largely credited for ending the shutdown through an orchestrated airport work stoppage, also spoke at the rally, making headlines for her comments about a general strike.

“To hear Sara Nelson speak was so powerful; the impression she left on me is one I will keep for my lifetime,” said 1245 Organizing Steward Darla West, who works at Sacramento Regional Transit. “I’m so proud to be a union worker and to be a woman in this movement.”

IBEW 1245 Joins AFL-CIO Civil and Human Rights Conference

Organizing Stewards Spread the Word About Free Tax Prep in West Sacramento

On Feb. 23, a dedicated group of 15 IBEW 1245 members and their families volunteered to get the word out about free tax return preparation services offered through the Sacramento Central Labor Council’s partnership with the United Way. The members spent the chilly Saturday morning passing out literature about the free tax prep services in the West Sacramento area. They dropped a total of 2,400 flyers in the community, ensuring that many families who may not be able to afford professional tax prep will have access to this helpful program.
California

The work picture in California continues to be very strong as PG&E works to inspect and repair all their facilities in the Tier 3 and Tier 2 fire zone areas prior to the 2019 fire season. The transmission inspection work is nearing an end, however there are still a lot of repairs to be made. The distribution inspections and repairs have begun and will continue on for several more months. This work is expected to go through 2019, and along with the fire hardening programs throughout the system, there is a generation's worth of work here.

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With the large number of travelers coming into the Union Hall each Monday, we are now doing safety orientations en masse in the conference rooms here at the Hall. We are also streamlining the way we handle these large crowds by issuing a program and allowing them the normal parking lot, and then allowing specific groups of people into the dispatch office at a time. This ensures “first come, first served” when signing the books.

We seem to have around 20-40 standing calls daily, with just about all the calls being 6-12s plus double sub, and there are several employers offering an additional $100 for lodging.

Even with the large number of line-men who are coming in to our jurisdiction, there is still a huge demand for more, given all the work that needs to be done. When we consider the long workdays, record man-hours, and large swaths of workers who have never worked in California or under our collective bargaining agreements before, safety remains a concern. Local 1245 business representatives are in the field every day and occasioned need to talk with the crews over contractual or safety issues that they see.

Outside Construction

WORK PICTURE

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Line Clearance Tree Trimmers

Tree Contractor Realignment Shakes Up the System

It's been a very busy quarter in the trees, as you will see in the reports below. A system-wide realignment of tree contractors has caused many members to either move or start with a new employer. Additionally, two of our larger prime contractors have left the system, and new contractors have been coming on board. Overall, the transition has gone smoothly, however due to so many changes, numerous issues have come up, and our business reps have been working diligently to get people back to work.

In September of 2018, PG&E launched a broad fuel reduction effort to cut and remove over 7,000 miles of trees in the highest risk fire zones, resulting in the need for thousands of additional laborers. This is the best way to ensure that all of these additional workers are paid the prevailing wage rates in line with what our current employers pay to is require everyone to be union.

Last year, we created a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for all new employers coming to assist with this work. When the Camp Fire occurred, most of those resources were redirected to Paradise and that clean-up effort. All those PLAs expired at the end of 2018, and with the move towards Enhanced Vegetation Management (EVM), coupled with the Long-term Agreement (all but two of these contracts), the prime contractors have left the system. The realignment of the prime contractors per area, the only PLAs we've signed in 2019 so far have been for the Camp Fire clean-up work.

To date, we have signed well over a dozen new tree contractors to the Master Agreement (PLA) or the new Prime Agreement contract (replacing the former sub-contracting to one of the Primes). The effort to keep track of all these new contractors and the workforce has created several challenges to both the reps in the field as well as the 1245 office staff who are assigned to process the paperwork and work with the companies' HR departments. Long-time 1245 Business Rep Landis Marttila, who spent several years working with the tree groups in the 90s, has come over to help the tree reps with the additional workload. It's been several years since Landis worked with the tree contractors, so there is a lot of catching up to do, but he is eager to help and that is what is needed at this time.

We don't expect any slowdowns with this day-to-day work, and we have a lot more work ahead of us as we head into a contract year. It can be easy to lose focus with all the changes, but we encourage all members to stay focused and work safe through these busy times. Nothing is more important than your safety!

Northern Area

There have been many changes in the northern area since the first of the year. With the recent realignment, almost all the tree companies in the north lost their contract areas with PG&E, with the exception of Wright Tree Service in the northern Humboldt area, and Family Tree in the southern Humboldt-Mendocino area. Wright Tree service took over the North Valley and North Bay area from Davey Tree. Family Tree took over the northern half of Sonoma county from Davey Tree and they also took over Lake County from Utility Tree. Mountain Enterprise took over the southern half of the North Valley from Utility Tree and the V.C. crews from Trees LLC in the area. Mario's took over the Sacramento valley division from Utility Tree, while Davey Tree took over the V.C. crews in the North Bay and North Coast division from Trees LLC. We also have a new company in the area now, Wilhelm Tree Service, which took over southern Sonoma county from Davey Tree.

All these changes caused some worry with the members, many of whom were not sure if they were going to still have a job or not. However, the IBEW 1245 tree trimmer agreement contains strong language that protects our members by detailing new contractor development and ensuring a "good faith effort" to retain the employees that previously worked in the area. We have made numerous yard visits, held special meetings, and assisted the members in this very difficult time to ensure they are aware of their protections. With the realignment of the prime contractors per area, the only PLAs we've signed in 2019 so far have been for the Camp Fire clean-up work.

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Central Area

Asplundh Tree (Nevada Energy) crews have been scattered in Reno, Carson City, and Incline Village, Nevada. NV energy concentrated the companies' resources to the new gas at SMUD. Grievenes that had been filed against the company included numerous violations that had been challenged by the union, including terminations, improper pay, final vacation pay, jury duty pay, change of company, improper layoff & demotion, funeral leave pay, and accurate reporting of all working personnel. The company claimed most of these matters had been resolved. We expect to secure a date for the next Mowbray's Grievance Review Committee meeting with Utility Tree Service. The company lost its contract with PG&E and is no longer performing work for the utility.

All Wright Tree crews have been working for the SMUD & Truckee Donner PUD southern area of Sacramento/Folsom, including Fresh Pond. The company also has work in East Bay & South Bay transmission. Truckee Donner has crews working downtown. The crews are happy working for Wright Tree Service. Unit meeting attendance has been good. The company's hiring system-wide right now!

Southern Area

This last quarter has been one of the most hectic we've seen in a long time. With PG&E declaring bankruptcy and then removing Utility Tree and Trees LLC from the property and awarding those divisions to new contractors, the number of issues that we're dealing with has more than doubled.

Davey Tree was also impacted immensely by the realignment. They were awarded De Anza and San Francisco, while Sierra and Northern Divisions were awarded to Mountain Enterprise, which then in turn sub-con-
La reorganización de los Contratistas de poda de árboles comisional al sistema

E
destá sido un trimestre muy ocupado en lo que se refiere al mundo de las podas de árboles, como se puede ver en los informes a continuación. La reorganización de contratistas de poda de árboles en todo el sistema ha ocasionado que muchos miembros se hayan tenido que mudar o comenzar a trabajar con un nuevo empleador. Además, dos de nuestros mayores contratistas principales han salido del sistema, y han estado llegando nuevos contratistas. En general, la transición ha transcurrido sin problemas, sin embargo, debido a tantos cambios, han surgido numerosos asuntos a resolver y nuestros representantes empresariales han estado trabajando diligentemente para que la gente regrese a su trabajo.

En septiembre de 2018, PG&E inició un amplio esfuerzo de reducción de combustible para cortar y retirar más de 7000 millas de árboles en las zonas de mayor riesgo de incendios, lo que se tradujo en la necesidad de miles de trabajadores adicionales en la zona. La mejora ha sido el producto de muchos años de trabajo de limpieza del incendio del campo, en los que varios miembros han recibido numerosas visitas a los patios, hemos tenido reuniones especiales, y hemos ayudado a nuestros miembros en estos tiempos difíciles para asegurarnos que conocen cuáles son sus protecciones según el contrato. La mayoría de nuestras compañías han cumplido con la cláusula del esfuerzo de buena fe, y los problemas que tuvimos al principio han sido casi totalmente resueltos. Ha sido una gran curva de aprendizaje para los miembros que ahora trabajan con nuevos empleadores, posiblemente con diferentes políticas de compensación. Los que se habían acostumbrado. Después de un año, un poco difícil, todo está comenzando a encajar, y nuestros miembros están regresando a trabajar como costumbre.

La demanda de trabajo de limpieza de combustible ha sido alta, y los miembros que están más al norte, en el Valle de North Bay, han trabajado con una cuadrilla de 24 horas en días de 10 horas, sin descanso.

Zona norte

Ha habido muchos cambios en la zona norte desde el comienzo del año. Como esperábamos, los cambios han sido recurrentes en la zona norte durante los últimos años. Muchos de estos contratistas, de todos los miembros que están trabajando allí, han tenido alta para nuestros miembros desde que Landis trabajó con los contratistas de poda de árboles, por lo que han habido muchos cambios en el sistema. Muchos de estos contratistas nunca han sido un problema para nosotros, pero han habido muchos cambios en el sistema. Muchos de estos contratistas nunca habían estado involucrados con un sindicato, y tienen muchas preguntas. Nos hemos reunido con muchos miembros de otros sindicatos, y hemos recibido muchos cambios para la zona norte. Los miembros en todas las zonas han informado que están trabajando muchas horas de tiempo. Los cambios de contratar y las tormentas han resultado en que muchas zonas estén atrapadas en el programa, y hay muchas trabajadores de poda de árboles que no han podido firmar el acuerdo. Muchos de estos contratistas nunca habían estado involucrados con un sindicato, y tienen muchas preguntas. Nos hemos reunido con muchos de ellos, y hemos recibido muchas preguntas. La empresa ha logrado que la mayoría de estos asuntos hubieran sido resueltos. Esperamos fijar una fecha para el próximo Comité de resolución de quejas de Mowbray’s. La participación en las reuniones de los miembros que han sido un problema.

En octubre de 2019 se le adjudicó el contrato en esta zona a Marios Service (Sacramento Valley, Solano, y el condado de Yolo). Lamentablemente, no obtuvieron todo el equipo necesario para ejecutar el trabajo en las instalaciones de PG&E. La mayoría de los trabajadores, incluyendo al sindicato, están trabajando en el suroeste. La empresa ha logrado que la mayor parte de estos asuntos hubieran sido resueltos. Esperamos fijar una fecha para el próximo Comité de resolución de quejas de Mowbray’s. La participación en las reuniones de los miembros que han sido un problema.

Mountain Enterprise (PG&E y Liberty Energy en North Lake/South Lake Tahoe) está trabajando con Marios en el sur de la zona norte. La empresa trajo algunos de sus empleados del sur de California para realizar el trabajo. El sindicato presentó una queja contra la compañía por violación del Artículo 6. Mountain Enterprise (PG&E y Liberty Energy en North Lake/South Lake Tahoe) ha logrado que la mayor parte de estos asuntos hubieran sido resueltos. Esperamos fijar una fecha para el próximo Comité de resolución de quejas de Mowbray’s. La participación en las reuniones de los miembros que han sido un problema.

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Continúa en la página 17
Member Spotlight: Crystal Dimodica, Line Clearance Tree Trimmer

“Headache!” IBEW 1245 member Crystal Dimodica shouts from the top of a large pine tree, using the common utility safety phrase to indicate that something is falling from above.

“Clear!” Her co-worker down below hollers back to her, and moments later, a hefty branch comes tumbling down to the ground.

Dimodica has been working as an IBEW 1245 line clearance tree trimmer for just over a year, first for Davey Tree, and now for Wright Tree. The petite 27-year-old woman may not look like your average tree trimmer, but anyone who’s seen her work can tell that she has clearly found her calling. She maneuvers through the treetops with ease, meticulously taking down the branches that have grown too close to the power line suspended just a few feet over her head, and then works side by side with her co-workers on the ground to haul the debris into the chipper before moving on to the next job.

Her work ethic is unparalleled, and her commitment to excellence on the job has caught the attention of her supervisor, who referred to her as a “rising star.” But she isn’t just good at what she does — she also recognizes and values the critical role that her work plays in utility line maintenance and wildfire prevention.

“I like the kind of work that actually makes you feel like you made a difference at the end of the day, and it is for the better,” she said as she described what attracted her to the tree trimming industry. “Some people don’t like what we do because they think it makes their trees look ugly — but in my opinion, it’s not about cosmetics. It’s about safety.”

Before she became a tree trimmer, Dimodica worked in a series of physically taxing jobs — in construction, at the dump, and in landscaping. Through the California Conservation Corps, she also worked at Caltrans and in several warehouses. But she enjoys tree trimming the most because it presents her with a new and unique challenge each day. She particularly loves the fact that she gets to climb, especially since the only other women she’s come across in the field have been on the ground, doing traffic control and other types of work.

Dimodica acknowledges that not a lot of women are cut out to be climbers, but in her eyes, the climbing aspect of the job gives her a chance to channel her inner superhero.

“Coming down from the top of a tree, you feel like a spider,” she said with a smile. “That’s the closest I’m going to get to being Spider-Man.”

“She can handle herself”

While women in the tree trimming field clearly have unique challenges to contend with — including basic things like ensuring the gear and PPE fit correctly, and finding a place to use the bathroom when working out in remote areas — Dimodica wasn’t interested in talking about any of that. She wants to be viewed as ‘one of the guys’ and she works exceptionally hard to make sure that’s the case.

“If they can handle it, I sure as hell can too,” she said.

And while it can sometimes be tough for females to be accepted and treated equally in certain male-dominated work environments, thanks to the culture of inclusion and mutual respect at IBEW 1245, Dimodica says she hasn’t encountered any sort of discrimination as a tree trimmer.

“So how do the other guys receive her when she comes onto the job?”

“Carefully,” she said with a small nod. “They all have been very helpful. I learn from every single one of them.”

In true IBEW fashion, Dimodica views her crew as her brothers — and somewhat coincidentally, her own biological brother, Frank Dimodica, also happens to be a part of the crew she’s currently assigned to. The Dimodica siblings have been working together for several months at both Davey Tree and Wright Tree — Crystal started first, and Frank joined her about a month later.

As a big brother, Frank’s natural inclination is to be protective of his younger sister, but he takes solace in the fact that she’s incredibly tough and more than capable of taking on the job and all that it entails.

“I know she can handle herself — but I’m still going to keep an eye out,” he said.

When the Utility Reporter caught up with the Dimodicas and their crew on a rainy April morning in rural Napa, it was a particularly tough time for the family, because their grandmother was gravely ill, and their mother and youngest sister were in Ohio to be with her in her final days.

“My mom’s very distraught right now, which is understandable,” Crystal Dimodica said. “I only had enough money to pay for her and my sister to go, so me and my brother had to stay behind.”

A brief flash of emotion came over her face as she talked about her family, but she quickly regained her composure as she explained how important it is to keep focused on the work.

“This is one of those jobs that’s stressful, and you really have to think about what you’re doing,” she said. “I learn something new every day, sometimes stuff you wouldn’t expect to learn out here. And we do get a lot of good responses from people. Just like how people thank the firefighters or thank the police, they’ll thank us too sometimes.”

As a newcomer to IBEW 1245, Dimodica hasn’t had a whole lot of interaction with the union as of yet, but when Davey Tree lost its contract with PG&E in her area and she decided she didn’t want to commute into a different area, she took advantage of the provisions afforded to her under the collective bargaining agreement, and transferred over to Wright Tree. In her relatively brief time with the IBEW, she’s already come to recognize the value in having union representation.

“They have our back,” she said. “That’s the impression I’ve gotten.”

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director
Miembro destacada: Crystal Dimodica

“Headache!” (dolor de cabeza) grita Crystal Dimodica, miembro del IBEW 1245, desde el tope de un alto pino. Esa es la frase de seguridad usada comúnmente para avisar a que algo está cayendo desde las alturas. “Clear!” (asespaldado) le grita como respuesta a su compañero de trabajo desde abajo, y momentos más tarde, cae a tierra una pesada rama.

Dimodica ha estado trabajando como podadora de árboles para el despeje de líneas del IBEW 1245 desde hace un poco más de un año, primero para Davey Tree, y ahora para Wright Tree. La mendita trabajadora de 27 años no se parece a un podador de árboles promedio, pero cualquiera que la haya visto trabajando se da cuenta que, sin duda, ha encontrado su vocación. Ella realiza maniobras fácilmente a través de las copas de los árboles, cortando meticulosamente las ramas que están muy cerca de las líneas eléctricas y que cuelgan a pocos pies por encima de su cabeza, y luego trabaja codo con codo con sus compañeros en tierra para transportar los escombros a la astilladora, antes de pasar a la siguiente tarea.

Su ética de trabajo es inigualable, y su compromiso con la excelencia en el trabajo? “Me gusta el tipo de trabajo que te hace sentir que al final del día marcas una diferencia positiva,” dijo al describir qué fue lo que la atrajo a la industria de la poda de árboles. “A algunas personas no les gusta lo que hacen, pero piensan que sus árboles se ven feos, pero en mi opinión, no se trata de apariencias. Se trata de la seguridad.”

Antes de convertirse en podadora de árboles, Dimodica trabajaba en empleos físicamente exigentes: en construcción, en el vertedero, y en paisajismo. A través del Cuerpo de Conservación de California, también trabajó en Caltrans en varios almacenes. Pero lo que más disfruta es la poda de árboles porque cada día representa un nuevo y singular desafío. Especialmente, le encanta que tiene la oportunidad de trepar, sobre todo porque las únicas otras mujeres que ella se encuentra en el mundo de la poda de árboles están en tierra, realizando control de tráfico y otro tipo de trabajos.

Dimodica reconoce que no muchas mujeres están hechas para ser escaladores, pero desde su punto de vista, trepar en el trabajo le da la oportunidad de canalizar su superhéroe interno.

“Al bajar [de la copa de un árbol], te sientes como una araña,” dijo sonriendo. “Es lo más parecido a llegar a ser el Hombre Araña.”

“Ella se puede manejar a sí misma”

Las mujeres en el campo de la poda de árboles obviamente tienen retos únicos, incluidas cosas elementales como asegurarse de que el equipo y el Equipo de protección personal se ajusten correctamente, y encontrar un lugar para ir al baño cuando trabajan en zona remotos. Dimodica no tenía interés en hablar de esos temas. Quiere que la traten como ‘uno de los chicos’ y trabaja arduamente para asegurarse de que así sucede.

“Si ellos pueden lidiar con este trabajo, seguro que yo también puedo,” dijo ella.

Y aunque a veces puede ser difícil, y a veces pueden lidiar con este trabajo, y a veces pueden lidiar con este trabajo, y a veces pueden lidiar con este trabajo, a veces pueden lidiar con este trabajo.

“Sí, pueden lidiar con este trabajo, seguro que yo también puedo,” dijo ella.

Y aunque a veces puede ser difícil, y a veces pueden lidiar con este trabajo, y a veces pueden lidiar con este trabajo, y a veces pueden lidiar con este trabajo, a veces pueden lidiar con este trabajo.

Pero lo que más disfruta es la poda de árboles porque cada día representa un nuevo y singular desafío.

“Cuidadosamente,” dice ella con un pequeño guiño. “Todos ellos me han ayudado mucho. He aprendido algo de cada uno de ellos.”

Con el auténtico espíritu del IBEW, Dimodica ve a su cuadrilla como si fueran sus hermanos. Y por casualidad, resulta que su propio hermano biológico, Frank Dimodica, es parte de la cuadrilla a la cual ella está asignada actualmente. Los hermanos Dimodica han estado trabajando juntos por varios meses, tanto en Davey Tree como en Wright Tree. Crystal comenzó primero y Frank se le unió como un mes después.

Como hermano mayor, la tendencia natural de Frank es ser el protector de su hermana menor, pero se consuela sabiendo que ella es increíblemente fuerte y más que capaz de asumir el trabajo y todo lo que ello implica.

“Sé que se puede manejar ella sola, pero seguiré con los ojos abiertos,” dijo él.

Cuando Utility Reporter se encontró con los Dimodica y su cuadrilla en una lluviosa mañana de abril en la zona rural de Napa, la familia estaba pasando por unos momentos especialmente difíciles porque su abuela estaba gravemente enferma, y su madre y su hermana menor estaban en Ohio, para acompañarla en sus últimos días.

“Mi mamá está muy angustiada en estos momentos, lo cual es comprensible,” dijo Crystal Dimodica. “Yo solo tenía suficiente dinero para pagarles el viaje a ella y a mi hermana, así que mi hermano y yo nos tuvimos que quedar.”

Al hablar de su familia, por su rostro se encontró un pequeño guiño. “Todos ellos me han ayudado mucho. He aprendido algo de cada uno de ellos.”

El auténtico espíritu del IBEW es lo que la atrajo a la industria de la poda de árboles. “A algunos les puede lidiar con este trabajo, pero yo también puedo,” dijo ella.

“Sí, pueden lidiar con este trabajo, seguro que yo también puedo,” dijo ella.

Y aunque a veces puede ser difícil, y a veces pueden lidiar con este trabajo, y a veces pueden lidiar con este trabajo, y a veces pueden lidiar con este trabajo, a veces pueden lidiar con este trabajo.

Dimodica es una recién llegada al IBEW 1245, y como tal, aún no ha tenido mucha interacción con el sindicato. Pero cuando Davey Tree perdió su contrato con PG&E en la zona donde ella trabajaba, y decidió que ella no quería trasladarse a una zona diferente, utilizó las cláusulas del acuerdo colectivo que tenía a su disposición, y se trasladó a Wright Tree. En el relativamente breve tiempo que ha estado con el IBEW, ya ha reconocido el valor que tiene tener una representación sindical.

“Ellos nos protegen,” comentó. “Esa es la impresión que tengo.”

— Rebecca Band, Dirección de Comunicaciones del IBEW 1245
Unique Training Prepares Local 1245 Bargaining Committee Members to Win for Workers

IBEW 1245 is known far and wide as one of the most effective union locals when it comes to bargaining top-notch contracts for our members. But these great contracts don’t just happen — they are fought for and won by our remarkable member-led bargaining committees, who time and again have managed to secure some of the best collective bargaining agreements in the nation, even in the face of roadblocks, challenges and downright hostility from the employer.

The member-negotiators who make up these committees bring innate skills to the bargaining table, but what sets our committees apart from other unions is the comprehensive training that Local 1245 provides them well before the first proposals are exchanged.

On Feb. 8, more than 100 IBEW 1245 members hailing from 60 public- and private-sector employers came together at Weakley Hall to hone their negotiating skills at the union’s acclaimed Bargaining Committee Training. This unique training aims to prepare bargaining committee members to take on the challenges of negotiations and come out on top — and has proven to be highly successful, as evidenced by our collection of outstanding agreements.

Local 1245 Assistant Business Manager Al Fortier emceed the day-long training, which touched on a number of important issues pertaining to bargaining and negotiations. The day opened with a discussion about the role of the bargaining committee members, and then transitioned into an overview of the bargaining process, from soliciting proposals from members, all the way to securing an agreement.

In the afternoon, the conversation turned to some of the more challenging aspects of negotiations, including unfair labor practices and bad faith bargaining by the employer, impasse procedures, and more.

IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell thanked the members in attendance and shared with them how negotiating labor agreements is one of the most important functions a union can perform, and one of the jobs he’s always enjoyed.

The members who participated left well-equipped to represent their co-workers at the bargaining table, and we look forward to seeing the gains they’ll be making during the next round of bargaining.

Two-Year MOU Extension Approved at City of Oakland

IBEW 1245 members employed at the City of Oakland voted to approve a two-year extension to the existing MOU, with general wage increases of 2% in each year of the extension. The City has also approved this extension, with no other changes to the existing MOU aside from wages.

— Charley Souders, IBEW 1245 Business Rep
Lockheed Martin is well-known as one of the largest defense contractors in the world, and its Space Systems division manufactures everything from military satellites to space probes to missile defense systems and futuristic spacecraft.

Much of this cutting-edge development takes place at Lockheed’s Sunnyvale, CA facility, where thousands of brilliant engineers and machinists craft some of the most remarkable aerospace technology known to man—but none of it would be possible without a dedicated team of IBEW 1245 members who maintain all of the electrical components throughout the sprawling campus.

“We basically keep the facility running all the way from the ground up,” explained IBEW 1245 member and Shop Steward Todd Shiels, who has worked at the plant for 17 years. “We take care of the two high voltage yards. We do lighting. We have boom trucks. We do new construction. We do FMRs (facility modification requests). We do service requests and general maintenance of the whole plant, electrical-wise … and also residential, mechanical, and industrial type of work.”

Much of the development that goes on inside of Lockheed’s facilities is classified, and about half of the 1245 members at the Sunnyvale plant hold high level clearances since they work in these very specialized areas. Without clearance, the Utility Reporter was unable to get a look inside the plant, and the members are strictly prohibited from discussing the details of what’s being developed there, but there’s no question that working at Lockheed isn’t your average run-of-the-mill job.

“It’s a vast amount of knowledge and skillset that you need to have to work here,” said Shiels. “The job changes daily, you’re not stuck doing one thing. We have multiple jobs that we do, and it’s something new every single day … We work on the roto and we work with mechanics, and it’s kind of like a team effort where everybody works together to get the job done.”

Shiels is a proud and grateful 25-year member, having worked out of Local 332, as well as Local 2131 before he joined 1245, it was really uplifting for the guys that work here to have that backing, and to have that professionalism that 1245 has,” said Shiels. “It’s been a real blessing in regards to negotiating contracts and basically bringing our value up.”

“When I came here, I actually took a pay cut, and was making $26 an hour. Now we’re making over $50 an hour,” he added, emphasizing the real difference that Local 1245 has made for the IBEW members at Lockheed.


—— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director

*IBEW made.com launched in 2014, lists dozens of items manufactured by our members—from lighting to appliances, including brand names such as GE, Sharp, and Eaton. Today, the market is flooded with the highest number of non-domestic low-quality products in history. Buying union-made products helps our communities keep jobs and tax revenue local, which benefits our families, neighbors, friends, and coworkers. Union jobs also mean that the skilled workers who create these products are treated fairly and paid fairly by their employers.*

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has a long history of representing workers in the American and Canadian manufacturing and service industries. We fought hard-von battles against corporate giants so that workers can have the safety protections, rights on the job, and middle-class wages they deserve. As the manufacturing and service industries change, we will continue supporting workers by striving for the highest quality products and service and keeping jobs at home.

Good jobs depend on the good decisions people make every day.

Make the right choice and support IBEW workers by buying union-made products and services.
In downtown San Francisco, there’s always a lot to see. But there’s one thing you won’t see much of in downtown SF anymore – overhead power lines. That’s because during the 90s and 2000s, many of the city’s power lines were buried underground as part of a broad aesthetic improvement initiative.

Currently, around 50% of San Francisco’s power lines — including pretty much all the lines that run through the Financial District and the rest of the downtown area — are now underground. The city had originally intended to underground every one of its wires, but due to the exceedingly costly nature of undergrounding, the allocated funds ran out well before the project could be completed. As a result, approximately 470 miles of power lines still remain overhead.

Working on underground power lines is markedly different from overhead line work, which is why PG&E has two separate electric workgroups in SF — one group handles the overhead lines, while the other group is responsible for the underground work. These two groups don’t usually work together, but on occasion, when there’s a job in a neighborhood with lines above and below ground, both the overhead and underground crews will get called in.

That’s precisely what was going on when the Utility Reporter arrived at a job in the Potrero Hill area of San Francisco. The task at hand involved installing three transformers, two switches and a J box in order to run service to a new apartment building. Underground Foreman and IBEW 1245 member Leo Terrazas detailed the specs of the job.

“Right now, we have cable from riser to riser — it has a dip in the underground, and basically we are installing three transformers for this new building here,” Terrazas explained. “So it goes from the riser down to a seven box, then up to the other riser — and we are going to divert the cable from that seven box to another seven box, which is going to go to a J box. And from there, it’s going to go to three transformers and another switch that we’re going to install back to that riser.”

Terrazas and his underground crew worked to run the secondary cable bright and early in the morning, and the overhead crew came out later that day to wreck out the existing primary riser and help the splicers pull in new primary cable. The following week, the underground crew went back to finish up the work.

You’d be hard pressed to find an electric crew that hasn’t encountered its fair share of challenging work sites, but there’s nothing quite like working on a bustling city street, complete with multiple utility crews, heavy traffic, road work, buildings under construction and an adjacent MUNI light rail station.

“It’s really, really congested. And it’s a challenge just working around each other,” said Terrazas. “But other than that, everything’s pretty straightforward. We do this all the time.”

As a 14-year member of IBEW 1245, Terrazas appreciates the fact that he and his crew have exceptionally strong union representation, something that becomes even more apparent when he meets workers who’ve been employed at other, non-1245-represented utilities.

“We see guys coming here from different companies, and they say they came here because of the benefits we have,” he said, acknowledging that those benefits are a result of 70 years of union bargaining and tough negotiations. “They’ve worked for other utilities that were taking away a lot of the benefits, and that’s the reason why they moved to California to work here at PG&E — because of IBEW 1245 and what they’ve done for us.”

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director
From left to right: Nate Fuchs, Tito Barrientos, Francisco Villanueva and Alfredo Terrazas. Back row- AJ Lindquist, Benjamin Jennings II, Tony Lafon, Travis Watson, Leo Terrazas, Tyler Thompson and Mike McCarthy.

Tyler Thompson (left) and Tito Barrientos cut a cable in an underground vault.

Tito Barrientos hands a cable cutter up to Francisco Villanueva.

Travis Watson (left) and Tyler Thompson put a sleeve on a cable to be pulled.

Al Lindquist drills a hole in an underground vault.

Utility Reporter
Candidates for Local Union Office

Candidates for Executive Board

President and Delegate to the International Convention of the IBEW

Cecilia De La Torre
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 9/30/07
Classification: Operating Clerk
Steward Positions: Shop Steward 1997 – Present
Local Union Offices Held: Executive Board Trustee 2014 – Present, Unit Chair #2511 2002 – present, Unit Recording Secretary #2511 2000 – 2002

Michael A Scafani
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 6/30/78
Classification: Retired
Local Union Offices Held: Executive Board Northern Area 2013, IBEW President CARA 2018-2019

Kevin Krummes
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 7/31/87
Classification: Operating Clerk
Steward Positions: Shop Steward, Organizing Steward
Local Union Offices Held: Sacramento Unit 3801 Chair, 2009-2016. Vice Chair 2016-2018. Chair 2018 – present

Vice President

Nathan Datus
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 10/31/14

Jim “Hammer” Hayes
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 10/31/84
Classification: Mechanic/Rigger
Steward Positions: Shop Steward
Local Union Offices Held: Unit 1220

Cloudell Douglas Jr.
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 7/31/08

Carl “CO” Olguin
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 5/31/96
Classification: Distribution Gas System Operator
Steward Positions: Shop Steward

Chairman, Southern Area Executive Board Representative 2016-2019
Other Activities on Behalf of the Union: Delegate at IBEW International Convention 2016

Other Activities on Behalf of the Union: Electrical Workers Minority Caucus Delegate, Central Valley Labor Delegate, Energy Future Delegate, Organizing Steward activities

Recording Secretary

Sonia Brun
Initiated into the IBEW: 9/30/09

Mona McCarthy
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 9/30/02
Classification: Operating Clerk
Local Union Offices Held: Unit Chair #2301

Rachel Ramirez
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 11/30/08
Classification: Customer Service Representative (CSR)
Steward Positions: Shop Steward 2011 – Present, Organizing Steward 2012-Present
Local Union Offices Held: Executive Board Recording Secretary 2015 to Present, Executive Board Central Area 2015, Unit Recorder #2511 2013 to Present, Clerical-At-Large Central Area seat on Advisory Council 2013-2015
Committees Served on Behalf of the Union: Attendance Management Initiative for CCO 2012CCO Labor Management Committee 2011 to 2013, CSO Labor Management Committee 2013 to Present, Lead Organizing Steward 2016 to Present, Organizing Campaigns: Prop 32/30 Campaign, Tim Sh Anti – California Reliance Campaign, Susan Bonilla Campaign, Jon Ossoff Cam-

Business Manager/Financial Secretary and Delegate to the International Convention of the IBEW

Tom Dalzell
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 12/01/81
Classification: Business Manager, Financial Secretary
Local Union Offices Held: Business Representative/Staff Attorney (1981-1983), Assistant Business Manager/Staff Attorney (1983-2001); Senior Assistant Business Manager (2001-2006); Business Manager/Financial Secretary (2006-present).


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Classification: Foreman Technician Relay Working; System Prevention at NV Energy Reno, NV.

Steward Positions: Shop Steward 1998-present

Local Union Offices Held: Member Advisory Council 2004 – 2006, Executive Board Member 2006-present


Other Activities on Behalf of the Union: Delegate to Northern NV Central Labor Council, Delegate AFL CIO COPE Convention, Delegate to IBEW Utility Conference, Delegate IBEW 9th District Progress Meetings, Appointed to investigate two post termination grievances, Attended Rocky Mountain Labor School 1998, 2000, Attended Contract Pricing Seminar Vacaville

Southern Area Executive Board

Don Barker
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 2/28/06

William Garris
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 10/1/99

Miguel Pagan
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 10/31/07

Classification: Electric Dispatcher

Steward Positions: Shop Steward, Organizing Steward

Committees Served on Behalf of the Union: Lead Organizing Steward

Other Activities on Behalf of the Union: Organizing drives most recent wild fire bill (SB901) and Unionizing Baltimore Gas and Electric.

Pedro Sandoval
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 6/30/76

Classification: Electric Crew Foreman

Steward Positions: Shop Steward- Present, Organizing Steward- Present

Local Union Offices Held: Southern Area Executive Board, Unit Chair Selma, Unit Co-Chair Selma, Unit Chair Fresno Department of Electricity


LauraArias “Q” Thompson
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 2/28/14

Classification: Custome r Service Rep II

Steward Positions: Shop Steward, Organizing Steward

Local Union Offices Held: Advisory Council

Other Activities on Behalf of the Union: Executive Board Member Fresno Tulare Madera Kings Central Labor Council, President of Electrical Workers Minority Caucus Solano Chapter, Baltimore Gas and Electric. No on Proposition A (Missouri Right to Work Campaign), No on Question 3 (Las Vegas Deregulation Campaign)

Central Area Executive Board

Ruben Hernandez
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 6/1/97

Gary Maschio
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 11/30/80

Classification: Critical Facility Tech Steward

Steward Positions: Shop Steward- Present, Organizing Steward- Present

Local Union Offices Held: Executive Board Central Area 2016 to Present. Advisory Council-San Francisco and General Counsel. PG&E 2012 - Present

Committees Served on Behalf of the Union: PG&E General Negotiating Committee

continued on next page

PLEASE NOTE:
• If you have moved, please update your address with the Union or you may not receive a ballot.
• Ballots will be mailed to members on Friday, May 24, 2019.
• Ballots will be counted on Tuesday, June 25, 2019. To be counted, ballots must be received at the ballot box on office box by 10:00 am on Tuesday, June 25, 2019.
• If you have not received your ballots by Friday, June 7, 2019 please call the Election phone at 707-452-2779 or send an e-mail to the Election e-mail address: elections@IBEW1245.com. Your message should include your full name, phone number, mailing address and either your member ID number/card number or the last 4 digits of your Social Security number.
**Northern Area Executive Board**

**Travis Carlson**  
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 4/30/03  
Classification: Gas Service Rep PG&E, Former SMUD Employee Ranch Seco  
Steward Positions: Shop Steward  
Local Union Offices Held: Unit Chair, Advisory Council  
Other Activities on Behalf of the Union: Safety Committee, Volunteer for No on 32 Campaign

**Nilda Garcia**  
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 10/31/11  
Classification: Service Representative II  
Steward Positions: Shop Steward, Organizing Steward  
Local Union Offices Held: Unit Chair Secretary  
Committees Served on Behalf of the Union: Pre-Review Committee 2017  
Other Activities on Behalf of the Union: IBEW 1245 training facilitator for Union Network Member Experience aka UNME, Executive Board member at the Sacramento Central Labor Council 12/2017 to Present, Solano County Chapter EWMCT at Large board member.

**Steve Mayfield**  
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 4/30/93  
Classification: Materials Lead Person  
Steward Positions: Shop Steward  
Other Activities on Behalf of the Union: Assisted IBEW 1245 with helping defeat attempts to take over PG&E facility and work in San Francisco. Supported and assisted with organizing CalPine at the Geysers.

**Ivan Pereda**  
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 1/31/10  
**Steve Segale**  
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 6/30/84  
Classification: Division Gas Working Leader  
Steward Positions: Shop Steward  
Local Union Offices Held: Executive Board Northern Area 2016-Present, Unit Chair Marin County 2014-Present Committees Served on Behalf of the Union: Labor/Management as Steward 1998-Present Gas LOP Oversight Committee 2015-17  
Other Activities on Behalf of the Union: Delegate to North Bay Labor Council 2005-09, Inter Union Gas Conferences 2014-18, West Coast Gas Conference 2016-18, Utility Conference 2017

**Suzy Laughlin**  
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 3/31/80  
Classification: First Field Clerk GC Central Valley Operations  
Steward Positions: Shop Steward 1985 – present  
Local Union Offices Held: Unit Recorder, Vice-Chair Unit Meeting 2511  

**Richard Olguin**  
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 5/31/97  
Classification: Proposal Negotiation Committee 2017  
Steward Positions: Shop Steward  
Committees Served on Behalf of the Union: EBWE Nuclear Conference Delegate 2017, 2018  
Other Activities on Behalf of the Union: Delegate to IBEW Construction Conference 2012

**Zachary Romeo**  
Initiated into the IBEW: 11/1/02  
**Charles Sala**  
Initiated into the IBEW: 3/31/01  
**General Construction of PG&E At-Large Executive Board**

**Stan Zamora**  
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 10/31/85  
Classification: MEO  
Steward Positions: Shop Steward, Safety Steward hold the Pull  
Local Union Offices Held: Executive Board PG&E General Construction At-Large Committees Served on Behalf of the Union: Scholarship Committee  
Other Activities on Behalf of the Union: Delegate to International Convention, Utility Convention, EWMCC Convention, Organizing Committee

**Outside Construction and Tree Trimming Company Executive Board**

**Cole Dorsey**  
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 7/1/05  
Classification: Journeyman Lineman  
Steward Positions: Shop Steward (former) 2015  
Other Activities on Behalf of the Union: Delegate to 2016 IBEW Construction and Maintenance Conference

**Scott Hudelson**  
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 11/12/96  
Classification: Journeyman Lineman  
Steward Positions: Shop Steward 2000 - 2007  
Local Union Offices Held: Unit Recorder #4911 Outside Line 2000-2013, Unit Chair #4911 Outside Line 2013-Present, Examining Board 2008-Present, Appointed to Executive Board Outside Construction & Tree Trimmers 2019  
Other Activities on Behalf of the Union: Delegate to IBEW Construction Conference 4/2012

**Candidates for Advisory Council**

**San Joaquin Division of PG&E — Physical**

**Ronald Greenlee**  
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 3/31/91

**Jamar Parker**  
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 3/31/16

**Chris Risley**  
Initiated into the IBEW: 10/31/07  
Classification: Chemistry & Radiation Protection Tech  
Steward Positions: Shop Steward 2011-Present  
Committees Served on Behalf of the Union: Scholarships Committee

**East Bay Division of PG&E — Physical**

**Phuong Tran**  
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 12/31/12

**San Francisco Division of PG&E — Physical and General Office of PG&E — Physical**

**Damien Padilla**  
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 2/28/06

**Stockton Division of PG&E — Physical**

**Jodiah Castro**  
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 3/31/02

**April – June 2019**
North Bay Labor Council 2016, GOTV
Fresno Central Labor Council 2016, IBEW 1245 Delegate North Valley Labor Federation 2019

Outside Construction
No valid nominations

City of Lompoc

Travis Border
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 2/28/14

John Daniel
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 2/28/14

Candace Koff
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 2/28/17

Leo Ramirez
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 2/28/14

Manufacturing

Arnaldo Lizarraga
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 10/1/12
Classification: Electric / Electronics Technician II
Steward Positions: Shop Steward, Organizing Steward

Generation including Dynegy, Foster-Wheeler, Genon, NCPA, NRG and Tri-Dam Project
No valid nominations

Materials Distribution Dept. of PG&E
No valid nominations

City of Vallejo and Greater Vallejo Recreation District

Oni Brown
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 1/1/10

Candidates for Examining Board (three seats available)

Robert MacLauchlan
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 5/31/86

Grant Todd
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 7/16/07

Sacramento Regional Transit District

Lauren Bartlett
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 7/31/92
Classification: Storekeeper
Steward Positions: Shop Steward 2002 - present
Committees Served on Behalf of the Union: Safety Committee 2002 - present, Labor Management Committee 2008 – present, Employee Recognition Committee at Sac RT 2 yrs., Excellence Committee at Sac RT 1 yr.

TransCanada
No valid nominations

Humboldt Division of PG&E — Physical and Resort Improvement District #1
No valid nominations

Shasta Division of PG&E — Physical, City of Redding, City of Shasta Lake and Bella Vista Water District
No valid nominations

NV Energy, TMWA, City of Fernley, Truckee Donner PUD, Mt. Wheeler Power, Inc, Lassen Municipal Utility District and Wells REA, Liberty Energy & Plumas Sierra REC

Victor Barajas
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 3/31/05

Martin Kumle III
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 7/31/98

Jonathon McCue
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 10/31/05

De Sabla Division of PG&E — Physical

Sandi Busse
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 3/24/11

Drum Division of PG&E — Physical and City of Roseville
No valid nominations

Utility Reporter

Sacramento Municipal Utility District and City of Lodi

Earl Ferris II
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 5/31/05

Frontier Communications

Kenneth Lawson
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 6/30/06

General Construction at PG&E — At Large (A)

Geraldine Nicole Brooks
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 7/31/90
Classification: Construction Operator GTGC
Steward Positions: Shop Steward, Organizing Steward, Safety Steward
Committees Served on Behalf of the Union: Control the Pressure Safety Steward, IBEW Emergency Response Team

General Construction at PG&E — At Large (B)

Joanne Vioria-McGrath
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 4/30/96

General Construction at PG&E — At Large (C)
No valid nominations

Tree Trimmer Companies

Michael Clough
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 10/31/10

Sacramento Division of PG&E — Physical and City Light & Power

Marcos Luna
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 5/31/97

Sacramento Municipal Utility District and City of Lodi

USBR, Western Area Power Administration

Patrick Severin
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 7/29/11

James Hanlon
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 4/3/02

Steve Speak
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 5/31/97

Clerical PG&E — Northern Area
No valid nominations

Clerical PG&E — Central Area

Kelly Gibbs
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 12/31/03

Vickie St Martin
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 5/31/92
Classification: Operating Clerk Gas Support Services
Steward Positions: Shop Steward
Local Union Offices Held: Unit #2511 Vice Chairperson
Committees Served on Behalf of Union: Labor Management Committee for Gas Support Services 2018-Present

Clerical PG&E — Southern Area

Brandon Fosselman
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 9/30/12
Classification: Customer Service Rep
Steward Positions: Shop Steward, Organizing Steward
Other Activities on Behalf of the Union: No on 3 Campaign NV 2018, SB 901 Advocate Volunteer

Irrigation Districts (Merced ID, Turlock ID, Lindmore ID, Paradise ID, South Feather Power and Water Agency, Modesto ID and South San Joaquin ID)

Rodrigo Flores
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 4/31/99
Classification: Senior Distribution System Operator
Steward Positions: Shop Steward, Organizing Steward
Local Union Offices Held: Unit Chair Person Merced ID
Committees Served on Behalf of the Union: Negotiating Committee 2016-2017, Volunteer Organizing Committee 2018
Other Activities on Behalf of the Union: No on Prop 32 2012, IBEW 9th District Meeting 2013, Organizing Institute Convention Washington DC, 2016, GOTV

Outside Construction
No valid nominations

City of Lompoc

Travis Border
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 2/28/14

John Daniel
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 2/28/14

Candace Koff
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 2/28/17

Leo Ramirez
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 2/28/14

Manufacturing

Arnaldo Lizarraga
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 10/1/12
Classification: Electric / Electronics Technician II
Steward Positions: Shop Steward, Organizing Steward

Generation including Dynegy, Foster-Wheeler, Genon, NCPA, NRG and Tri-Dam Project
No valid nominations

Materials Distribution Dept. of PG&E
No valid nominations

City of Vallejo and Greater Vallejo Recreation District

Oni Brown
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 1/1/10

Candidates for Examining Board (three seats available)

Robert MacLauchlan
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 5/31/86

Grant Todd
Initiated into IBEW 1245: 7/16/07
Eighteen gas construction teams and more than a dozen gas and electric locators showed off their skills at the Fifth Annual PG&E/IBEW Gas Rodeo, which took place on April 13, 2019 at the PG&E Gas Safety Academy in Winters. They competed for fun, bragging rights, and the chance to advance to the national and international rodeo events later this year.

The Electric Locate, Gas Locate, and the Locate From Hell competitions got the crowd warmed up as individuals demonstrated skill and speed in front of the grandstand. Shortly thereafter, the Gas Construction team competition got off to a tremendous start, as two remarkable times were turned in during the pipe cut event. In the two-man team competition, the Manteca Gas Rats broke the national record in this skill event with a posted time of 9.97 sec. And on the four-man team pipe cut, Team Yosemite posted a time of 8.06 sec, which smashed the previous PG&E Rodeo record by more than six seconds, and is only two seconds off from the long-standing national record in that skill.

The competition was stiffer than it’s ever been, and several teams continued to break local records and put up impressive times in the meter set, service run, and hand dig events, which all led up to the final team relay. After the competition concluded and the final numbers were tabulated, the winning teams were announced, amidst much celebration and raucous applause from fellow competitors, who have a great appreciation for their brothers on the podium. This year marked the first time that the Gas Rodeo was open to competitors outside of PG&E, allowing several new teams from the gas contractors that support PG&E to compete alongside the GC teams. But in the end, the skill and ability of 1245 members at PG&E shined through, as our teams swept the podium in all classifications.

“The day out here was amazing,” said IBEW 1245 member Cavan Conner, who competed as part of the winning four-man “HOTT Headz” team. “We broke the...
Locate Rodeo Competitors Heading to International Utility Locate Rodeo in December:
• Farron Drylie (1st Place, Gas Locate)
• Sergio Medina (2nd Place, Gas Locate and LFH winner)
• Gil Grajeda (1st Place, Electric Locate and 1st Place Overall)
• Thomas Gongora (2nd Place, Electric Locate)
• Luke Munoz

Gas Rodeo Teams Heading to National Gas Rodeo in September:
• 1st Place, Two-Person Team: Quiet Riot, GC Gas – Chico (Jayson Visinoni, Brad Husa, Steve Lange*)
• 2nd Place, Two-Person Team: Manteca Gas Rats, GC Gas – Manteca (Tom Peterson, Zach Shepherd, Colby Roberts*)
• 1st Place, Four-Person Team: HOTT Headz, GC Gas – Bakersfield (Cavan Conner, Isaac Lupercio, Noel Estrada, David Lupercio, Daniel Hinojosa*)
• 2nd Place, Four-Person Team: Stray Dogs, GTGC Gas – Modesto (Scott Gust, Victor Romero, John Jackson, Brandon Bascherini*)

*asterisk indicates team alternate

record again on the service run, and we did really great on the pipe cut. But the one that won it for us would have been the relay. [At] three minutes and six seconds, we broke the PG&E record here, and that’s what got us to first place!”

The Rodeo is a celebration of the work that gas members perform on a daily basis to keep our communities safely and efficiently fueled with natural gas. The activities for kids, live entertainment, raffles, free food and giveaways by the many vendors that sponsored the event made it a great day for all of the spectators who came out to support their family, friends, and coworkers. The moderate weather in Winters on this particular Saturday was ideal for all in attendance, and even though it wasn’t too hot, there was still a constant stream of kids and adults making a beeline to the always-popular snow cone truck.

“It’s a really, really fun event for the families. I look forward to bringing the family and the kids out every year,” said IBEW 1245 member Brad Husa, who competed as part of the winning two-man “Quiet Riot” team. “It’s great to come out and see how everybody is progressing with the events. Everybody is learning, and the times are getting better. But the biggest thing for me is the family aspect.”

Good times were had by all, and we look forward to reconnecting with friends from across the PG&E territory and seeing how the competitors continue to improve at next year’s event.

— Anthony Brown, IBEW 1245 Senior Assistant Business Manager

PG&E/IBEW Gas Rodeo

Photos by John Storey
Dalzell Outlines the Obstacles and Opportunities Facing Local 1245 and its Members

With so much going on in nearly every corner of IBEW 1245’s jurisdiction, Business Manager Tom Dalzell presented the Advisory Council with a broad overview of some of the successes and challenges that Local 1245 and its members are facing this season.

Dalzell began by touching on the work that the union is continuing to do in Nevada following our successful campaign to defeat energy deregulation in that state last year. The wealthy casino owners and big tech companies behind Question 3 continue to keep the union on its toes, but thanks to the resources the union has been able to allocate to Nevada, our members and the customers they serve there are faring just fine.

Dalzell then pivoted to the great success that Local 1245 has had with membership retention at our public sector properties. After last year’s Janus v. AFSCME Supreme Court decision — which sought to weaken the House of Labor by eliminating fair share fees in the public sector — many unions saw a precipitous decline in membership, in some cases 30% or more. But IBEW 1245 has only lost about 1% of its public sector members since the ruling.

“This is all because of the hard work that our Volunteer Organizing Committee members and staff have put in to keep members in the union,” Dalzell pointed out.

He mentioned that the unity and power we’ve amassed within the public sector is going to be on the horizon at 1245’s largest public sector employer, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), where the Board recently approved a 9.25% rate increase over the next two years.

“SMUD customers are not used to rate increases like this, and who do you think will bear the brunt of their frustration? It’s probably going to end up being our members.” Dalzell said.

Dalzell then pivoted to the myriad of challenges at PG&E, many of which are stemming from the company’s Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing. He noted the key role that IBEW 1245 has played in the cured Creditors Committee, and mentioned the bankruptcy court’s recent approval of 130% in STIP payments for 2019. STIP is an at-risk pay program that affects approximately 50 members of Local 1245, and many more members of IBEW ESC Local 20. STIP payments were cancelled in 2018, and while the extra 30% in 2019 doesn’t make up for that lost pay, it is a step in the right direction.

Dalzell then shifted to a discussion on the city of San Francisco’s latest effort to municipalize the utility, noting that voters have shot down such attempts multiple times in the past, so this time the city’s leadership may endeavor to do it without voter approval.

“They understand that they can’t [municipalize] during bankruptcy, but they are talking about it — and we oppose it. Because even if they’re the best employers in the world with good intentions, there’s still a very real issue with our members’ pensions and post-retirement medical,” said Dalzell. “Now, we don’t support private utilities over public utilities, because we represent both — what we oppose is a change that would negatively impact our members and the customers they serve … and we will be fighting San Francisco with everything that we have against municipalizing.”

Dalzell also noted that some tech companies see opportunity with PG&E in bankruptcy.

“Solar City, for example, says that they can do a better job running the grid than PG&E. They think they can take all the data that’s been generated from smart meters — which is an awful lot — and figure out how to run the control centers better than PG&E,” said Dalzell. “And the distributed energy resources outfits are now saying instead of upgrading the Gonzalez Sub in North Bay, why don’t we do some lithium battery storage? So all of those challenges continue.”

Dalzell emphasized that he and other members of the union staff are in close contact with Gov. Newsom and other lawmakers, but the confidence in the company remains very low around the Capitol, despite the recent changes to the board and company leadership.

And with fire season just around the corner and the company still under heavy scrutiny from the judge on the San Bruno case, Dalzell underscored the work that the company and our members are doing to harden the grid and reduce fuel in an effort to mitigate fire risk on tens of thousands of miles of power lines. Due to the sheer volume of work, Local 1245 has three times the usual number of outside line contractors and line clearance tree trimmers working on PG&E property, and the company is seeking to hire an additional 500 line men in the near future to address this massive workload.

And that’s not the only place where work is expanding. Dalzell sees opportunities for growth in two other areas as well. Electric vehicle charging station installs are continuing to move forward, which means more work for our members. Additionally, the union is striving to bring some of PG&E’s drone work, which up until now has been mostly contracted out, back in house and into the hands of our members who took a union-sponsored FAA drone training last year for precisely this reason.

Dalzell concluded by underscoring that we’re facing numerous obstacles and perhaps even more opportunities, but in his words, “We’re going to get through this.”

IBEW 1245 President Art Freitas Steps Down

After 35 years as an active member of IBEW 1245, including five years as its President, Art Freitas announced that he will be retiring from his leadership position with the union during the quarterly Advisory Council meeting in Vacaville.

"Art has been on the IBEW 1245 Executive Board for 15 years, and he retired from the company 14 years ago — so instead of doing what we all hope to do when we retire, he chose to commit himself and his time to keep the union going strong," Local 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell told the Advisory Council. "Art has led us through some really difficult times, and our 20,000 members today and for years to come will have better, safer lives and better working conditions because of Art’s dedication.”

“President Emeritus Art Freitas

Business Manager Tom Dalzell

April – June 2019
Eight-year IBEW member Javier Esquivel has won the union's quarterly photo contest. Brother Esquivel is an outside line journeyman lineman currently working for Cupertino Electric.

His winning image, captured during a pole change-out job on Treasure Island, depicts an apprentice lineman on a pole with the San Francisco skyline and Bay Bridge as the backdrop. Esquivel says he captured the remarkable photo with his new Google Pixel phone.

Esquivel and his wife, Jennifer, accepted the $500 prize at the quarterly Advisory Council meeting in Vacaville.

Submissions are currently being accepted for the next quarterly contest. All active 1245 members in good standing are eligible to enter. Photos must be original, job-related, and submitted in a high-resolution format. Entries can be sent to RGB1@ibew1245.com.
It can be hard to quantify the amount of grid hardening work in Local 1245’s jurisdiction that’s associated with PG&E’s new Community Wildfire Safety Program, but one way to get a sense of the magnitude of this project would be to imagine taking all of PG&E’s power lines in Tier 2 (elevated fire risk) and Tier 3 (extreme fire risk) areas and lining them up end to end — if you did that, the lines would circle the entire world 1.5 times!

Addressing potential fire hazards over such a massive area is a herculean endeavor, and IBEW 1245 members undoubtedly have their work cut out for them — but they are more than up for the task, and our union currently has dozens of crews working in every corner of the service territory to mitigate wildfire risk as much as they possibly can.

The Utility Reporter caught up with one such outside construction crew from Summit Line as they worked on a grid hardening job in the PG&E right-of-way on Penstock Trail in Auburn.

“The job is a back-tie between two different substations, upgrading the wire for PG&E’s requirements. It’s about 6,000 feet of reconductor,” explained crew foreman and eight-year IBEW 1245 member Sean Rubadue. “Basically we go in, set new poles, frame everything, and raptor out here … which means we drop the arms down to give more clearance between the wires for fire protection. This way, if a bird lands on that arm, the chances of them coming phase-to-phase or anything like that has dropped because of the current framing.”

On the day that the Utility Reporter visited the job, Rubadue and his crew were finishing up the last cut-over from the old wire to the new wire. Once that part of the job was complete, the next step would be to wreck out the old wire and remove the old poles. Like most jobs in high-fire-risk areas, they had their fair share of challenges to contend with, but the skilled crew took it all in stride.

“It’s definitely been rough terrain, as you can see,” said Rubadue, gesturing to the steep hillside behind him. “We’ve got tight corridors, we’re working on this tight side of the hill, [with limited] truck access … but overall, it hasn’t been too bad.”

Rubadue first joined Local 1245 as a groundman, completed his line apprenticeship out of state, and then returned to 1245 after he topped out as a journeyman lineman. His IBEW union pride is exceptionally apparent to all who cross his path — he has an eye-catching rendering of the iconic IBEW union logo tattooed on his neck, and his hardhat is emblazoned with IBEW stickers.

“I love the union … I wouldn’t have it any other way. It’s great!” he told the Utility Reporter. “They take care of us. They’re always looking out for us, for our safety, and they do a good job of making sure that we’re taken care of and we’re able to do the job safe.”
Sacramento
February 8, 2019

35 Years Front row, from left: (Dalzell) and Sonny Holleson. Back row, from left: Michael Brazil, Gayle Ebisu and David Niehenke

25 Years Front row, from left: (Lawton), Mindy Perez, Yvonne Chiu. Back row, from left: (Dalzell), David Vipond, Danilo Balch and Tameron Pettigrew

20 Years From left: (Lawton), Ryan Stewart and (Dalzell)

15 Years Front row, from left: Eric Hickerson, Yvette Magee and Corey Mah. Back row, from left: Lloyd Cargo IV, Raul Martinez and Thomas Jasper

10 Years Front row, from left: Tina Covington, (Dalzell) and Veronica De Luna. Back row, from left: Michael Benner, Ross Leavens, Gary Kidder and Stephen Smith

5 Years Front row, from left: Timothy Gauthier, Jorge Belda II and Ben Girard. Back row, from left: Ryan Teeple, Luke Gartan and Ryan Armstrong

Units lend a helping hand

All of the following unit donations to various charitable organizations from January through March 2019 were approved by the IBEW 1245 Executive Board.

- **San Francisco Unit #2412** donated $500 to the Shriners Hospital for Children.
- **Fresno Clerical Unit #1110** donated $167 to the London Bridge Composite Squadron 501.
- **Topock/Needles Unit #1313** donated $500 to American Youth Soccer Region 741 and $250 to Just A Fad Fresno Clerical Unit #1110.
- **Placerville Unit #3813** donated $500 to the Boys & Girls Club of El Dorado County in Placerville.
- **Elk Grove/Frontier Unit #4014** donated $500 to the Kids Fight Bullying Project.
- **Grass Valley Unit #3513** donated $500 to the Chavez Family Tuition.
- **Rocklin Unit #3515** donated $250 plus $175 in matching funds to Chavez Family Tuition, and $250 plus $175 in matching funds to Child Advocates of Placer County.
- **Elko Unit #3318** donated $500 to Elko Big Horn.
- **Loomis Unit #3510** donated $500 to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2039 in Paradise, CA.
- **Placerville Unit #3813** donated $500 to the Boys & Girls Club of El Dorado County in Placerville.
- **USBR/Shasta Unit #3218** donated $200 to the Redding Youth Soccer League.
- **San Jose Unit #1511** donated $500 to the IBEW 1245 GoFundMe account for the Camp Fire victims.
- **South San Joaquin Irrigation District Unit #1126** donated $500 to Oakdale Equine Rescue.
- **Truckee Meadow Water District Unit #3310** donated $500 to the Veteran’s Guest House of Reno.
- **Fresno Clerical Unit #1110** donated $250 to the EWMC Solano County Chapter for backpack drives, Derby Day, community services, and fundraising.
- **Turlock Irrigation District Unit #1126** donated $250 to the Dev’s Fight Fundraiser.
- **Sacramento Clerical Unit #3801** donated $250 to the EWMC Solano County Chapter in support of the May 19, 2019 Derby Day Fundraiser at Golden Gate Fields in Berkeley.
- **Santa Maria Unit #1216** donated $300 to the Atascadero Little League.
- **Fort Bragg Unit #3717** donated $500 to the Fort Bragg Little League.
- **Stockton Unit #2511** donated $100 to the Northern California Coalition of Black Trade Unionists Chapter for their Earth Day event on April 20, 2019.

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**PG&E Gas Service Rep Succumbs to Terminal Cancer**

IBEW 1245 member and PG&E Gas Service Rep Oswaldo Badilla recently passed away after a battle with renal cancer. He was just 47 years old, and leaves behind a loving wife and three children who could use our support during this difficult and painful time.

PG&E employees can also sell their vacation time using the PG&E @ Work program to support kids in need in the Fresno area.

Anthony Corales poses for a photo with a recipient of a new pair of shoes.

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**Support Family of IBEW 1245 Member Who Died on Vacation**

Seventeen-year IBEW 1245 member Andrew Machi was tragically killed while on vacation with his family in Eureka, where he was celebrating his 30th birthday. Machi was working as a troubleman out of PG&E’s Jackson Service Center, and he leaves behind a wife and young children. The family is reeling from this sudden and shocking loss, and could use our support during this heartbreaking time.


Congratulations newly-retired members

The Local 1245 Retirees Club congratulates these recently-retired members of the union. We invite you to participate in a Retirees Club chapter at 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!

Allen, Michele 33 years Stockton, CA
Amodeo, Lori 16 years Pleasant Hill, CA
Atondo, Cecilia 35 years Yuba City, CA
Becker, Paul 7 years Moraga, CA
Benedict, Steven 38 years Bay Point, CA
Bergeron, Len 37 years Windsor, CA
B llers, Carol 33 years Mountain Ranch, CA
Blyth, Mitchell 35 years Roseville, CA
Camarata, Steven 46 years Santa Clara, CA
Carras, Cathy 42 years Antioch, CA
Cassidy, James 38 years Paso Robles, CA
Cassidy, Celia 40 years Union City, CA
Chavez, Lloyd 43 years Elk Grove, CA
Childs, Noal 35 years Auburn, CA
Conners, James 17 years Bakersfield, CA
Cooper, Michael 34 years Marysville, CA
Cummins, Rodney 33 years Red Bluff, CA
Curts, Craig 24 years Ceres, CA
Cummings, Raizel 34 years Foresthill, CA
Dalin, Paul 27 years Fresno, CA
Dailey, Mario 35 years Grover Beach, CA
Dangerfield, Christina 35 years Elk Grove, CA
Decoil, Frank 22 years Petaluma, CA
Dermond, Phil 47 years Petaluma, CA
Diebler, Douglas 35 years Livermore, CA
Dockrey, C. 27 years Yuba City, CA
Durant, Davey 35 years Vallejo, CA
Edwards, John 42 years Chico, CA
Enos, Carol 43 years Petaluma, CA
Enriquez, Richard 17 years Redwood, CA
Felix, Janice 38 years Marin, CA
Retcher, Wade 35 years Elk Grove, CA
Reese, Jose 33 years Woodland, CA
Rong, Christine 39 years Stockton, CA
Rongaroli, Alice 28 years St. George, UT
Rower, Steven 41 years Garden Valley, CA
Franks, Adrienne 40 years San Pablo, CA
Garcia, Marie 40 years Santa Cruz, CA
Garcia, Daniel 16 years San Jose, CA
Genis, Stephen 38 years San Francisco, CA
Grossman, Lee 34 years Santa Rosa, CA
Grossman, Douglas 40 years Santa Maria, CA

North Bay Retirees Support Lake County Moose Lodge

The IBEW 1245 North Bay Retirees Club Vice President Red Olin (far left) presented a $1,200 donation to Lake County Moose Lodge Administrator Jeremy Redick (center, in tan coat). The donation included $500 from the IBEW 1245 Community Fund, $350 raised by the retirees, and an additional $350 in matching funds.

— Mark McCrea, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Camp Fire Fund Thank you

I just wanted to take the time to thank all of the members of IBEW 1245 for contributing to the Camp Fire Fund. I lost my dream home in Paradise and everything that my husband and I had worked so hard for in 33 years together. I really appreciate my union brothers and sisters coming together to help one of their own. I have always believed in the concept of the union looking out for each other...standing up for what's right and fair. This has been one hell of a rocky ride but knowing I have the support and sympathy of my union family means more than you know...THANK YOU 1245!!! Thank you, April Wilson, PG&E Operating Clerk San Ramon, 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. Take a break and enjoy more fun for less money!

Staying Connected

Congratulations Retirees! We want you to stay connected to IBEW 1245.
A
fter 13 years on staff at IBEW 1245, Business Rep Pat Waite will be retiring from the union this spring.

Waite first joined the IBEW in 1976, as a groundman out of Local 47. He went on to complete his line apprenticeship and worked as a lineman, line crew foreman and troubleman at Southern California Edison, where he was employed for a total of 15 years. In 1991, he went over to Puget Power (Local 77) where he worked as a lineman for another five years before coming over to Truckee Donner PUD (Local 1245), where he worked for 10 years as a lineman and substation lineman.

Local 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell dubbed Waite, “a journeyman lineman's journeyman lineman,” and a glimpse at his lengthy track record unquestionably backs up that sentiment.

As a rank-and-file union member, Waite proved himself to be a staunch advocate for his fellow workers. He served as a shop steward for Local 47 when he was at SCE, and helped review bargaining proposals as a member of Local 77's large bargaining committee during his time at Puget Power. He also represented his fellow Local 1245 members as a shop steward, bargaining committee member and labor-management committee member when he worked at Truckee Donner PUD.

After 30 years in the utility industry, Waite joined the Local 1245 union staff in 2006 after making quite an impression on Local 1245 Senior Assistant Business Manager Dennis Seyfer.

“Pat is the first person I hired to be a rep, I interviewed a couple of candidates that day, and Pat made my decision easy,” said Seyfer. “Over the years, Pat has proven to be an invaluable advocate for our members and a pleasure to be associated with.”

During his 13-year tenure as a business rep, Waite achieved enormous gains for multiple workgroups. In 2010, he worked with members at the City of Roseville to secure a contract that ultimately led to the union winning an $800,000 settlement for the members through a PERB case. He also helped negotiate CalPERS retirement benefits for members at Truckee Donner PUD and worked to unify the members at TMWA during a particularly contentious round of bargaining in 2017.

Senior Assistant Business Manager Ray Thomas has served alongside Waite on numerous bargaining committees over the past 22 years, and has always been impressed by Waite's demeanor, commitment and confidence under pressure.

“Pat was recognized by all as a consummate professional,” said Thomas. “He never stopped fighting for our membership.”

Waite also served as the business rep for Local 1245 members at NV Energy, taking over the role shortly after 1245 endured a brutal anti-union drive led by former CEO Mike Yakira that resulted in something of a stalemate between the union and the company. While some might have shied away from such a difficult situation, Waite entered into it willingly, and continued to bargain aggressively for the members at NV Energy, with essentially no concessions over the past nine years — even after Berkshire Hathaway took over NV Energy.

“Pat's assignment with Nevada Energy placed him in the jaws of the lion … and when Berkshire Hathaway acquired NV Energy, Pat faced a whole new challenge — new management that had earned a reputation of playing with sharp elbows when negotiating with other IBEW locals,” recalled Business Manager Tom Dalzell. “Throughout the process, open dialogue, and taking risks, Pat reshaped the relationship with Berkshire. After several years, the IBEW-BHE relationship had emerged as the most collaborative utility relationship in the country, thanks in no small part to Pat.”

In addition to his gains at the bargaining table, Waite is well-known around the union hall for his outstanding accounting skills and his noble work as a trustee for the union staff’s own pension plan.

“When asked what he'll miss most about working at Local 1245, Waite said he'll always remember “working with great union members from the various agencies I represented over the years and the assistance they provided with bargaining and labor relations.”

He also feels grateful to have worked with stellar managers who empowered him to be the best rep he could be.

“I’ve had the privilege of working under the direction of Tom Dalzell and witnessing first-hand his progressive forward thinking and the positive outcomes. Dennis Seyfer has been the best leader to work for. Always giving the latitude to make my own decisions, yet always there when I needed him to provide some muscle,” he said. “And Ray Thomas is probably the most knowledgeable IBEW 1245 employee, and he will always get back to you no matter how small or large the issue.”

His managers had kind words for him as well.

“As he steps into the next phase of his life I hope he has a long and adventurous walk,” said Seyfer.

“It was my honor to work alongside Pat, and I wish him a long and fulfilling retirement, he certainly has earned it.”

In April 22, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak signed a new Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) bill into state law. The bill, known as SB 358, mandates 50% RPS by 2030 and 100% carbon-free by 2050. Gov. Sisolak signed the bill on Earth Day, and stated that he would have signed an even higher RPS level (60%) if it had been presented.

Several provisions in SB 358 will benefit IBEW 1245 members. The most notable aspect of the bill is that Hydro is now considered to be a qualified renewable energy resource in Nevada.

This will help IBEW 1245-represented electric co-ops to meet the new qualifications without any big or costly changes to their current procurement process.

The new law also includes language to limit the use of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), and especially unbundled RECs. Clean energy experts have long criticized the use of RECs as “greewashing,” and IBEW 1245 applauds Nevada for taking a forward-thinking approach on this issue.

Additionally, the bill encourages utility-built renewables in conjunction with a new version of the existing “Green Tariff” program that NV Energy operates today. NV Energy has already filed an application to update the Green Tariff program with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN). The Green Tariff program permits NV Energy to build renewables and supply that energy to large customers directly, which can put our members employed by 1245 signatory contractors to work.

Compared to the current program that is already in effect, the new version of the Green Tariff program makes it more likely that NV Energy will build these projects.

The beneficial end result of this bill is largely due to the fact that IBEW 1245, and our sister Local IBEW 396, actively participated in discussions with NV Energy and the environmental community, effectively out-maneuvering the opposition. There are still a few things we will need to polish during the next legislative session, but overall, this is a very good step forward for Nevadans and the IBEW in Nevada.

— Hunter Stern, IBEW 1245 Assistant Business Manager
Last fall, IBEW 1245 teamed up with IBEW 396 and our shared employer, NV Energy, to oppose Question 3, a deceptive energy deregulation ballot measure that could have had widespread impacts on utility jobs and customers in Nevada. Together, we soundly defeated the measure by a 2-to-1 margin — no small feat, considering the same exact measure had passed by a similar margin just two years earlier.

The labor-management coalition we built played an enormous role in the success of the No on 3 campaign, and garnered the attention of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), which presented the inaugural Edwin D. Hill Award during the National Labor Management Public Affairs Committee (LAMPAC) meeting in Washington DC on March 11.

Named for IBEW International President Emeritus Edwin D. Hill, who passed away in December, the award is given to leaders who advance issues at the state and local levels. Hill, who EEI describes as “a transformative trade unionist who modernized and shepherded the IBEW through one of the deepest recessions in history,” built a legacy by establishing the IBEW as one of North America’s most powerful voices for working people. Hill also worked to create National LAMPAC in 2007 to help the union and electric companies jointly address the nation’s energy challenges.

“You have set the standard for how to work together to achieve positive results for the industry, alliance partners and people and communities of Nevada.” IBEW International President Lonnie Dalzell wrote in a letter to Local 1245. “On behalf of the National LAMPAC, the leadership of the Edison Electric Institute, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the men and women that support our industry day in and day out, thank you for your leadership.”

“IBEW Local Union 396, IBEW Local Union 1245, and NV Energy worked together to build a broad coalition to achieve an outcome that ultimately benefits electricity customers in Nevada,” said EEI President Tom Kuhn in a statement. “They were very successful, and they are all very deserving of this distinguished award.”

IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell, Senior Assistant Business Manager Bob Dean and Assistant Business Manager Hunter Stern represented Local 1245 at the awards ceremony.

“We don’t do the work we do for the purpose of winning prizes, but instead to further the interest of our members. That said, it is always a source of pride when Local 1245’s extraordinary efforts are recognized,” said Dalzell. “This award belongs to the hundreds of 1245 members who worked to defeat Question 3.”

Steve Lange Represents IBEW 1245 at Gov. Newsom’s First State of the State Address

Sixteen-year IBEW 1245 member Steve Lange doesn’t consider himself to be a “political person.” But when the union presented him with a unique opportunity to get up close and personal with California’s new governor, he couldn’t pass up the chance.

Lange, a Paradise, CA native who has been working in the Camp Fire zone since the day after the blaze leveled his hometown, was invited to represent IBEW 1245 at Gov. Gavin Newsom’s first State of the State Address, as part of a contingent of first responders.

“I was really flattered and honored to get that phone call,” Lange said, recalling the moment that IBEW 1245 at Gov. Gavin Newsom’s first State of the State Address, as part of a contingent of first responders.

“It was such an honor to be there on behalf of 1245,” he said. “I’ve been working in Paradise pretty much the whole time since the fire, and it was kind of nice to get away from that for a little while and get some appreciation for the work we’ve been doing.”

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director

Lange feeling proud and humbled at the same time.

“It was such an honor to be there on behalf of 1245,” he said. “I’ve been working in Paradise pretty much the whole time since the fire, and it was kind of nice to get away from that for a little while and get some appreciation for the work we’ve been doing.”

“My wife and I walked in, and there we were, right alongside Maria Shriver and the First Lady,” he added with a glimmer of awe in his voice. “It was very cool … almost surreal. It was something I’ve never been exposed to at that level. It was a lot to take in, and I was just trying to absorb everything that was happening around me.”

During the State of the State address, Lange was seated in the balcony with other first responders, and became acquainted with a nurse who had helped rescue people from the Camp Fire. They bonded over their shared experiences during and after the fire.

As the Governor prepared to begin his speech before a joint session of the California legislature, Lange’s attention turned to the podium below. While he doesn’t always agree with Newsom’s positions on some political issues, Lange’s impression of the Governor’s address itself was generally positive.

“Overall I was very impressed with Gavin’s vision for California,” he said, noting that he appreciated the fact that the Governor’s comments about the PGE bankruptcy included a mention of fairness for the workers. “Whether or not it actually happens remains to be seen, but his vision sounds very good.”

Once the speech was over, Lange and his wife were brought in to the Governor’s mansion for a private reception.

“That in itself was something else,” Lange said. “My wife, myself and other nurses and first responders from Paradise… just hanging out in the Governor’s living room.”

The entire experience left Lange feeling proud and humbled at the same time.

“It was such an honor to be there on behalf of 1245,” he said. “I’ve been working in Paradise pretty much the whole time since the fire, and it was kind of nice to get away from that for a little while and get some appreciation for the work we’ve been doing.”

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director
The collaboration of IBEW and The Gallo Group in 1982 led to a creation of retirement seminars which are open to IBEW, PG&E, Frontier Communications, and SMUD employees age 45+ and those on LTD. Family members or friends that will benefit from this presentation are also welcome to attend. These seminars are provided to you free of charge, and a meal will be served at each seminar for attendees’ enjoyment. Please contact The Gallo Group of Merrill Lynch in Walnut Creek, CA at 925-945-4838 and ask for Matt Gallo or Kindy Mann if you have any questions.

**Topics:**
- Medical Cost/Medicare
- Optimize Social Security
- Stock Market Uncertainty
- Pre-Retirement Preparations
- Building your Retirement Plan

**RSVP:**
- Matt Gallo or Kindy Mann
  - Email: kulwinder_mann@ml.com
  - Text: 925-212-5703
  - Phone: 925-945-4838
- www.ibew1245.com/retirementseminars

**San Jose**
- Sat Aug 24
- 9:00 – 10:30 AM
- Hyatt Place
- San Jose-Downtown
- 282 Almaden Blvd.

**Bakersfield**
- Sat Sept 7
- 9:00 – 10:30 AM
- Padre Hotel
- 1702 18th St.

**Fresno**
- Sat Sep 7
- 1:30 – 3:00 PM
- DoubleTree
- 2233 Ventura St.

**Redding**
- Sat Sept 14
- 9:00 – 10:30 AM
- C.R. Gibbs
- 2300 Hilltop Dr.

**Chico**
- Sat Sept 14
- 1:30 – 3:00 PM
- Two Twenty Restaurant
- 220 W. 4th St.

**Monterey**
- Friday Sept 20
- 6:30 – 8:00 PM
- Montrio Bistro
- 414 Calle Principal

**San Luis Obispo**
- Sat Sept 21
- 9:00 – 10:30 AM
- Madonna Inn
- 100 Madonna Rd.

**Sacramento**
- Sat Sept 28
- 9:00 – 10:30 AM
- Holiday Inn
- 300 J St.

**Stockton**
- Sat Sept 28
- 1:30 – 3:00 PM
- Hilton Stockton
- 2323 Grand Canal Blvd.

**Santa Rosa**
- Sat Oct 5
- 9:00 – 10:30 AM
- Hyatt Regency
- Sonoma
- 170 Railroad St.

**Foster City**
- Sat Oct 5
- 1:30 – 3:00 PM
- Crowne Plaza
- 1221 Chess Dr.

**Concord**
- Sat Oct 19
- 9:00 – 10:30 AM
- Hilton Concord
- 1970 Diamond Blvd.

Gallo Recognized by:

“This informative program has helped many of our members over the years as they think about how to prepare for retirement. We are pleased to offer this service, which is absolutely free to members and their spouses.” **Tom Dalzell, IBEW 1245 Business Manager**
Congratulations on your service!

**HONOREES**

45 Years
- Duran, Donna
- Galan-Garcia, Patricia
- Iwata, Dan

40 Years
- Huntington, Lon
- O’Bannon, Russ
- Swilley, Jeff
- Torres, Susan
- Wolcott, William

35 Years
- Barcellos, Richard
- Carpenter, Lonnie
- Higgins, Sean
- Ledoux, David
- Luis, Gary
- Mayhew, James
- Norman, Anthony
- Ridge, Patricia
- Tollakson, Daniel

30 Years
- Curry, Gerald
- Daniel, Jack
- May, Randy
- Orozco, Gonzalo

25 Years
- Cazao, Eduardo
- Gause, Treawny
- Mendez, Antonio
- Milliren, Karen
- Torres, Baldemar

20 Years
- Cooke, Norman
- Criles, Eric
- DeSignori, Richard
- Figueroa, Jose
- Flores, Rodrigo
- Foster, Franklin
- Leonardo, Richard
- Marcebo, Joaquin
- Nava Flores, Rogelio
- Schlapia, Danny
- Shepherd, Mike

15 Years
- Boyer, Kenneth
- Campbell, William
- Castro, Salvador
- Caton, Daniel
- Cramer, Nicholas
- Danieli, Preston
- DeSomma, Daniel
- Diaz, Mariano
- Esobar, Peter
- Garcia, Juan
- Gonzalez, Cristina
- Goodson, Daniel
- Kitchel, Robert
- Krieger, Dustin
- Mac, Timothy
- Ortega, Martin
- Sandalow, Juan
- Williams, Bruce
- Xavier, Duarte

10 Years
- Almanza, Santiago
- Ayala, Jose

5 Years
- Alcaraz, Rene
- Alhormady, Nashwon
- Ashley, Lannie
- Bates, William
- Buckner, Derek

Utility Reporter

MERCEDESBUSINESS MANAGER TOM DALZELL with Susan Torres

February 1, 2019
SERVICE AWARDS

Bakersfield
March 7, 2019

35 Years
From left: Dale Brosky, Joy Degeddingseze and (Dalzell)

40 Years
From left: David Mydland, IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell, Esther Ruiz, Mark Rolow and Salvador Mesa

Congratulations on your service!

30 Years
From left: (Dalzell) with Byron McArthur

HONOREES

Crowder, David
Diaz, Daniel
Domínguez, Joseph
Esparza, Brian
Fernández, Ricardo
Fuentes, Guillermo
García, Omar
González, Jesús
Hernández, Raúl
Martínez, Javi
Montoya, Eugenio
Murillo, Raúl
Navarro, Salvador
Rodríguez, Claudio
Sanchez, Jorge
Sandoval, Tony
Serrano, Mario
Suárez, José
Vázquez, Carlos
Zambrano, Álvaro

45 Years
Rodrigues, Louis

40 Years
Bailey, Tommy
Bell, John
Cártel, Robert
Cortes, Dan
Daly, Curtis
Hamilton, Billy
Mesa, Salvador
Mydland, David
Ruiz, Esther
Scott, David

35 Years
Bradshaw, Mark
Brosky, Dale
Campbell, Gerald
Carr, Clinton
Clark, Mark
Cruz, Gilbert
Davis, Greg
Feldstein, Tim
Gaston-Rollins, Joy
Harris, Dale
Morisson, Lisa
Petty, Kerry
Phillips, Richard
Reichert, Mike
Root, Jerry
Saffell, Kerry
Salinas, Rupert
Sanabria, Samuel
Sperling, Dale
Teagarden, Annette
Ward, Teresa
Zimmerman, Blair

30 Years
Brown, Lori
Flores, Daniel
Henry, Sam
Johnson, Richard
McArthur, Byron
Zaninovich, George

20 Years
Campbell, Cameron
Downing, Travis
Garcia, Daniel
Solorio, Roberto

15 Years
Barnachia, John
Cardenas, Anthony
Castillo, Michael
Condeiro, Manuel
Covert, Dustin
Fillmore, Jason
Gonzales, José
Gonzalez, Miguel
Greenwood, Robert
Humbert, Anthony
Jett, Kelly
Lodien, Laura
Lynch, Artie
Mina, Paul
Murray, Sean
Nañez, Salvador
Perry, Jared
Race, Andy
Sellers, Scott
Spence, Clifford Jr.
Strech, Kyle
Thompson, Randy

10 Years
Barraza, Robert
Barrios, Carlo
Brauer, Travis
Castillo, Michael
Chamberlain, Nathaniel
Correa, Ayelito
Co, Michael
Crane, Chad
Domínguez, Patricia
Escolar, Ann
Gardner, Joshua
Giesler, Ross
Hernández, Cruz
Huff, William
Kong, Bun
Maltit, Mark
McNitt, Jason
Moore, Johnathan
Perez, Agustin
Perez, Matthew
Perez, David
Snyder, Joseph
Tomberlin, Anita

5 Years
Aigner, Robert
Anderson, Stephen
Avellan, Brian
Barbetta, Jacob
Barnes, Michael
Bucci, Janelle
Conner, Cawan

Photos by John Storey

Congratulations on your service!
SERVICE AWARDS

San Francisco
February 22, 2019

40 Years Front row, from left: Art Fontanilla, Jennifer Wong and Dennis Lee. Back row, from left: Steven Broadway, Mike McCarthy and Paul Bell

45 Years Front row, from left: Renaldo Hafalia and Gene Wong. Back row, from left: IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell and Jerry Beebe

40 Years Front row, from left: Renaldo Hafalia and Gene Wong. Back row, from left: IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell and Jerry Beebe

35 Years Front row, from left: Gary Kahoonei, Philip Colla and Robert Hulgan. Back row, from left: (Dalzell), Scott Forman, James Kamariotis and Jerry Camacho

40 Years Front row, from left: Art Fontanilla, Jennifer Wong and Dennis Lee. Back row, from left: Steven Broadway, Mike McCarthy and Paul Bell

30 Years From left: Vinh Lu with (Dalzell)

25 Years From left: Marcus Williams and Hunter Stern

15 Years Front row, from left: Paul Noce and David Baird. Back row, from left: Kacey Nelson and (Dalzell)

5 Years From left: (Dalzell) with Sarah Marrone

Congratulations on your service!

Utility Reporter

San Francisco
February 22, 2019

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5 Years From left: (Dalzell) with Sarah Marrone

Congratulations on your service!
TAKEOVERS & Acquisitions

I've been hearing a lot of rumors about the utility selling off part or all of the system. Yeah, I've heard that, too. But the union is strongly opposed to it. So if the company tries to move forward, they're in for a real fight.

I don't understand why the union is opposed to a change of control. Would it be so bad if the city or state decided to take over the utility?

That's right. Workers are usually the ones who lose out when there's an acquisition.

Well, our union has been bargaining with the company for seven decades—and as a result, we have the strongest collective bargaining agreement in the nation. A change of control could result in our losing some of those things we bargained for—like our pension, benefits and working conditions.

That's why the union has always opposed a change of control. We fought back against attempts at municipalization in San Francisco more than once. We fought back when SMUD considered taking over PG&E in West Volo.

Does the union just like privately-owned utilities better?

Not exactly. We opposed PG&E when they were considering acquisition of SMUD in the 1980s. When Rancho Seco almost ruined SMUD, and we also opposed the company's proposed acquisition in Lodi during the energy crisis, when Lodi gave over its utility to Enron.

So you see, the union doesn't favor private utilities over public because our union represents both. What we do favor is continuity and stability for the members, and acquisitions are pretty much guaranteed to disrupt and distract from all the efforts we put in.

IBEW 1245 is committed to protecting and defending the wages, benefits, working conditions and retirement security that our members have fought for and earned. Takeovers and acquisitions threaten to weaken or even eliminate what we gained, and we will continue to oppose any attempt to weaken or deteriorate our hard-fought agreements.

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