



Inside:

# Utility Reporter

Volume 71 No.4 • Oct – Dec 2022      UNITY IS STRENGTH      For up-to-the-minute news, see our website: [www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com)

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IBEW 1245 members won first place overall at the 2022 International Lineman's Rodeo. Story on page 18.  
Photo by John Storey





**Bob Dean**  
Business Manager

**B**y the time you read this, the mid-term election will be settled, and we will have some idea of what the political landscape of California and the nation will be. Through all our political differences, the #1 goal of Local 1245 has been, and will continue to be, the protection of our members. Protecting our jobs, keeping our members safe, and ensuring that our wages and benefits remain at the top of the scale are our top priorities.

As I look back on 2022, we have had great successes this year, but we also face many challenges.

Safety is the core founding principle of the IBEW, and must remain at the forefront of all we do. But too many

members are still being hurt on the job. We have work to do to continue to build our safety culture, bring on more safety stewards, and hold each other to a high standard. With all of the distractions of life in 2022 and beyond, we need to stay focused and look out for one another.

As I write this, we are dealing with tough negotiations at the City of Redding and NV Energy. Additionally, 40 of our manufacturing members will be losing their jobs as Sunoptics closes its doors this month. These challenges are significant, but nothing we haven't overcome before. With patience, dedication and hard work, we will support our members through these rocky times.

High fuel prices, and high prices in general, are certainly affecting our industry. We are seeing work being pulled back due to delays in getting material, changes in pricing, and high interest rates — but through all of these challenges, it brings me great pride to see you, our members, working hard to keep the lights on and the gas flowing.

We have an unprecedented amount

of work coming our way, and with that comes incredible opportunities for our members. We have full employment across our membership with no end in sight. We continue to work to keep the Diablo Canyon Power Plant open (see more on page 7) and we also have new Transmission projects coming in both Northern California and Northern Nevada (see more on page 6).

1245 had tremendous success at recent International Lineman's Rodeo. The decorated team of Josh Klikna, Dustin Krieger and Steve Johnson from TID won first place overall — the best in

the world! They have won their division five times in seven years, and have been on the podium in nine different years, an amazing accomplishment. It was great to see years of hard work pay off for these brothers. We had lots of our members on the podium this year — see page 18 for more highlights and photos from the Rodeo.

As always, I want to thank you for all that you do every day. You are the backbone of our union. Keep it up, stay safe, and never forget to enjoy all the benefits that come with your IBEW 1245 membership.

## Melissa Echeverria Joins IBEW 1245 Organizing Staff

**T**en-year IBEW 1245 member Melissa Echeverria has joined the union staff as an organizer. She previously worked for PG&E at the Fresno contact center, and has been assisting 1245 with workforce development projects in a temporary capacity since February 2022.

"When my career began with PG&E, I knew I wanted to be an advocate for my union brothers and sisters and fight for fairness and equality. When IBEW gave their on-boarding presentation during orientation, I was sold; I caught the union bug," she said.

Sister Echeverria has served the union as a unit recorder, shop steward and organizing steward. She has represented 1245 as a delegate to numerous conferences and conventions, as well as at her local Central Labor Council. Echeverria brings ample experience to 1245's organizing department, having served as a lead on more than half a dozen organizing, legislative and political campaigns.

"I've fought alongside my siblings to keep our members' jobs on the steps of Sacramento, have walked precincts and

knocked on doors to get out the vote, and have lobbied decision-makers in D.C.," she said. "When I was asked to fill various temp assignments on staff with



**Melissa Echeverria**

1245, I was humbled with every single opportunity. I want to extend my deepest gratitude of thanks to Business Manager Bob Dean and the organizing staff. It is an honor and privilege of my life to be on staff and serve the members of IBEW 1245."

"My favorite thing about being an IBEW 1245 member is the brother and sisterhood, my union family," she added. "Collectively, our union is a beautiful melting pot of the values, knowledge, and strength of our IBEW 1245 members which translates into power. That power has given all of us the path to a better life and a better future because of our solidarity."

Echeverria lives in Sanger with her husband Victor and their rescue dog, Murphy. She loves coffee, traveling, touring breweries/wineries, playing chess, practicing yoga and Star Wars. In summer of 2022, she earned her Associates degree in labor studies, completely tuition-free because of her IBEW affiliation.

## Utility Reporter Printing Error

Due to a printer error, some members may have received last quarter's IBEW 1245 union newspaper with the wrong first name listed on the address. We regret and apologize for this mistake, and we are working to ensure it doesn't happen again.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at [info@ibew1245.com](mailto:info@ibew1245.com).

## Angels Camp Unit Meetings Cancelled

**Unit #2512, Angels Camp**, has cancelled its unit meetings for the remainder of 2022.  
— *Rey Mendoza, IBEW 1245 Business Rep*

## Livermore Unit Meeting Cancelled for November and December

**Unit #2315, Livermore**, is cancelling its November and December meetings due to the holidays. The unit will resume meetings as scheduled in January.  
— *Mark Goodwin, IBEW 1245 Business Rep*

## Shasta Unit Meeting Date Change

**Unit #3218, Shasta (USBR)**, will have their regularly scheduled meeting date moved from the third Tuesday of the month to the first Tuesday of the month. The meeting will take place at the regularly scheduled time 5:00 p.m. in the same location, Woody's Brewing Company, 1257 Oregon Street, Redding CA.  
— *Lou Mennel, IBEW 1245 Business Rep*

Mark your calendar for these exciting events next year.

- **May 6, 2023:** IBEW 1245 Soccer Tournament
- **Sept. 23, 2023:** IBEW 1245 Golf Tournament
- **Oct. 7, 2023:** IBEW 1245 Car Show

2023



### Utility Reporter

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LONNIE R. STEPHENSON  
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Secretary-Treasurer

September 7, 2022

**VIA EMAIL AND US MAIL**

To: All IBEW Participating Withdrawal Card Members

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The Delegates of the 40<sup>th</sup> IBEW International Convention, which was conducted in Chicago, Illinois, during the week of May 9 through 13, 2022, approved several amendments to Article IX of the *IBEW Constitution*. Accordingly, effective January 1, 2023, there will be an increase of two dollars (\$2.00) for the per capita that is paid to the General Fund only. There will also be an increase of two dollars (\$2.00) in the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) contribution, which applies to "A" members only. The following rates will apply to all participating withdrawal card (PWC) payments covering January 2023, and thereafter:

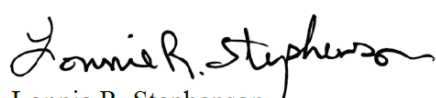
	"A" Members	"BA" Members
Per Capita	\$22.00	\$22.00
Pension Fund	<u>\$21.00</u>	Not Applicable
Total:	\$43.00	\$22.00
<b>Quarterly:</b>	<b>\$129.00</b>	<b>\$66.00</b>

In accordance with Article IX of the *IBEW Constitution*, \$22.00 per month from each member will be deposited in the General Fund, and the additional amount paid by "A" members (\$21.00 per month) will be deposited in the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund.

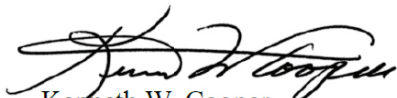
For your reference and information, all of the rate changes that were approved at the 40<sup>th</sup> International Convention are summarized below:

Effective Date:	1/1/2023	7/1/2024	1/1/2025	7/1/2025
Per Capita:	\$22.00	\$23.00	\$23.00	\$24.00
Pension Fund:	<u>\$21.00</u>	<u>\$21.00</u>	<u>\$23.00</u>	<u>\$23.00</u>
Total:	\$43.00	\$44.00	\$46.00	\$47.00

Fraternally yours,



Lonnie R. Stephenson  
International President



Kenneth W. Cooper  
International Secretary-Treasurer

LRS/KWC:bmm

Copy to All International Vice Presidents

All International Executive Council Members

All International Executive Assistants and Directors

All International Representatives

All Local Union Business Managers



**Learn what's happening.  
Speak your mind.  
Build our unity.**

## Attend an IBEW 1245 Unit Meeting!

**Please note that all unit  
meetings are open to all  
IBEW 1245 members.**

**To find the most up-to-date  
meeting information, scan  
the code below, or visit  
[www.ibew1245.com/unit-meetings](http://www.ibew1245.com/unit-meetings)**



# IBEW

## Local 1245



**See  
you  
there!**

## IBEW 1245/PG&E PEER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

*Are you struggling with substance abuse?*

Peer Volunteers are here to help. The Peer Volunteer Program — which is a collaborative effort between PG&E, the IBEW and ESC — provides an additional way for employees and their families to access help for alcohol or substance use disorders.

The Peer Volunteers are all PG&E employees who are in recovery from their own alcohol or drug use disorder or that of a loved one.

The program is free, anonymous, and confidential.

**Learn more at [peervolunteers.org](http://peervolunteers.org)**







## GEARHEADS *Gathering*

### IBEW 1245/PG&E Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show

The 2022 Gearheads Gathering was held at the PG&E Gas Training Facility in Winters, Calif. on October 1, 2022. Photos by John Storey

After a pandemic-induced hiatus, the IBEW 1245/PG&E Car, Truck and Motorcycle show triumphantly returned to the PG&E Gas Training Center in Winters on October 1, 2022. More than 75 vehicles owned by IBEW members and PG&E employees were on display at the second annual car show.

"The car show was fantastic! It was great to see our members, union staff, reps and leadership coming together for this a special event," said IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean.

Local 1245 Business Reps Gerald Williams and Ryan Skelton spearheaded the day, with help from a cadre of union staffers, members and volunteers.

"We had a great time interacting with our members as well as the Winters community. We had a taco truck style food vendor, music, and tons of raffle prizes that we gave away throughout the day," said Skelton. "Even the Winters Police Department stopped by to take in the car show! The best part? The

event raised around \$5,000 to donate to St. Jude Hospital."



The car show featured an outstanding mix of all sorts of vehicles, from immaculately restored classics to brand new sports cars.

For IBEW 1245 member and PG&E Troublemaker Jimmy Webb, the Gearheads Gathering was an exciting op-

portunity to show off his shiny 2022 concept eight Corvette in rapid blue.

"It's a mid-engine car, some could describe it as a super car," Webb explained. "It has a dual clutch transmission, like a Ferrari or a Lamborghini. It's got a mid-engine like a Ferrari or a Lamborghini. It is an exotic American car."

In a cheeky nod to this special occasion, Webb temporarily affixed the PG&E logo to the side doors using

painter's tape, and positioned a tiny two-inch safety cone in the front.

Webb, who is approaching 20 years with the company, recognizes that this Corvette — and the C7 and C5 Corvettes he had before this one — never would have found their way into his possession if not for IBEW 1245.

"If it wasn't for the union, I wouldn't have this automobile, because we would be getting scrub wages and we would all be just scraping by, just like everybody else in the country," he said candidly.



After all the judges and spectators had a chance to check out the vehicle lineup, the awards were announced. IBEW 1245 Business Rep Lou Mennel's 1955 Ford F100 nabbed the Best Truck and People's Choice awards.

"This is the second show that I have entered, the first time the truck has won an award. I was very shocked to win the People's Choice Award, quite an honor,"



[LEFT]  
Jeff Kaiser  
received the Best  
in Show  
award for  
his 1933  
Ford 5  
window  
coupe.



[RIGHT]  
Jimmy  
Webb with  
his 2022 C8  
Corvette







99-year-old George Castro won Most Experienced Driver.



Lou Mennel received both Best Truck and People's Choice awards.

said Mennel, noting that he bought the F100 as a high schooler in 1980 for 975 dollars. "I have done most of the work myself, or with the help of family. When my kids were young, it sat untouched for years. Nowadays, my son-in-law, Ben Girard, who works for PGE in Sacramento GC, does most of the work with me, or for me. About three years ago he asked me what my plans were with the truck. I told him that I planned on finishing it when I retire. He told me that's a bad plan, why not finish it now and enjoy it sooner? He was right

and it's nearly finished ... but with old vehicles, they are never really done."

Other winners included:

- Best C10 – Eddie Herrell (1969 C10)
- Best Motorcycle – Scott Radabaugh (kawasaki w800 café)
- Best in Show – Jeff Keiser (1933 5 Window Ford)
- Best 4x4 – Todd Wooten (1967 Ford Bronco)
- Longest Drive – TJ Hohenberger – (2018 Dodge Challenger Hellcat)
- Most Unique – Jeffrey Lambert (1935 International Fire Truck)

- Best Import – Kevin Goodner (VW Beetle)
- Under Construction – Ryan Skelton (1974 Chevrolet C30)
- Best Modern Car – Tim Gonzalez (2016 Chevrolet Camaro SS)
- Best Hot Rod – Scott Caster (1933 Ford Coupe)
- Most Experienced Driver – George Castro (1928 Ford Roadster Pick-up)

"Thanks to everyone that organized, volunteered, MC'd, sold tickets, directed traffic, sold t-shirts, registered

participants, helped set up, pack up the van, or brought a car to the show," said 1245 Senior Assistant Business Manager Anthony Brown. "All of you helped to make today a real success."

"I would especially like to thank our members from PG&E's Reprographics team for making the award plaques for us," added Williams. "They came out great, and they were more than happy to help us out."

*Mark your calendars for the next Gearheads Gathering on the first Saturday in October, 2023.*





# IBEW 1245 Celebrates Unprecedented Legislative Achievements in California

**I**BEW Local 1245 has had success in the legislative arena before — in fact, we're well-known around Sacramento as a powerhouse union that knows how to advocate effectively on behalf of our members. But our past successes pale in comparison to the legislative victories we achieved in 2022.

We approached this legislative session with an incredibly ambitious agenda — most years, we have just a handful of priority bills, but this year, we had 13. Some of those bills were rife with opposition, and we were ready to fight. And when it came down to the wire, we didn't hesitate to activate our army of organizing stewards to make sure our voice was heard loud and clear through the halls of the Legislature.

We ended this legislative session with an astounding 12 of our 13 bills passing through both the Assembly and Senate. This is a testament to the relationships we've built with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. The level of state and federal funding secured during this single legislative session for work that our members perform is absolutely extraordinary. But we will likely never see another legislative session like this one, for a number of reasons:

First, we had an unprecedented amount of state funding available from a huge budget surplus. The federal government's COVID relief economic stimulus bills not only funded state and municipal governmental services (thereby saving the jobs of hundreds of our members working for these public agencies), but the overstimulation of funds actually resulted in a record California State Budget of \$308 billion (including mandated rainy day funds of \$20 billion) with a surplus of approximately \$100 billion to be spent over the next five years.

The Governor's end-of-session Climate Action bill package will reallocate and spend at least \$20 billion of that budget surplus for climate initiatives that accelerate transportation electrification, building decarbonization, and other technologies and initiatives where IBEW members do the work. A large portion of these funds will be used to leverage tens of billions of dollars in federal funding to support EV infrastructure,

wildfire mitigation, hydrogen hubs and carbon capture utilization and sequestration — all work performed and supported by IBEW 1245 members.

This \$20+ billion in California climate spending, in addition to the \$20 billion in spending for undergrounding of distribution lines, plus the subsequent \$20-\$30 billion of federal spending from the Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), will mean HUGE amounts of funding for our members' work over the next 5-10 years, rising to never-before-seen levels. These funds do not include the \$2.5 billion GreenLink transmission project in Nevada, nor does it include the \$14 billion in transmission work estimated for our jurisdiction in California over the next 20 years.

Read on to learn more about the bills that IBEW 1245 sponsored in 2022, and how they impact our members.

**SB 846 (Dodd)** provides for a loan of \$1.04 billion to PG&E to keep the Diablo Canyon Power Plant operational for an additional five years, set rates for power as well as energy produced additional \$7 per MW. It also includes additional funding for DCCP operations and to facilitate the approvals of key agencies, like the State Lands Commission and Dept of Water Resources, to complement the DOE Civil Nuclear Credit Program and other federal funds under both the IIJA and IRA. **IMPACT:** The bill extends work for 1245 members at the plant for five years for each unit, plus hundreds of 1245 and Building Trades workers who are called in to perform extensive outages. It also maintains funding and extends existing retention plans for the five-year extension period, subject to CPUC approval. **STATUS:** This bill passed both Houses at the end of the session, and Governor Newsom signed SB 846 on Friday, Sept 2. See more on page 7.

**SB 884 (McGuire)** includes a ten-year utility power line undergrounding program, and optional language for any large utility to participate. The bill also requires PG&E to pursue all federal funding for this work, including the wildfire protection funding in the IIJA from last year. In the meantime, PG&E is claiming it will underground 10,000

miles of distribution lines over the 10-year period. **IMPACT:** This is roughly \$2+ billion of 1245 work per year for 10 years, with all investments being rate-basable for PG&E. The vegetation management securitization provisions were excluded, but we intend to come back and pursue them next year. Even if the company does only two-thirds of the 10,000 miles of planned undergrounding, it will be \$12 - \$15 billion in work to be performed by 1245 members. **STATUS:** SB 884 passed the Legislature with strong bipartisan support and was signed into law on Sept 29.

**SB 905 (Caballero)** lays out the Carbon Capture, Removal, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) Program, and requires it be up and running in California by 2024. The bill also positions CA to leverage all federal subsidies for CCUS, which were approved in the IRA, making carbon sequestration viable for continued operation of gas-fired power plants. **IMPACT:** CA Carbon Sequestration will support grid reliability and thereby extend continued large natural gas use, supporting work for our gas department members at PG&E. Gas throughput won't be at today's levels, but will remain significantly higher than forecasted, employing all gas workers for indefinitely longer than previously anticipated. **STATUS:** SB 905 passed the Legislature and Governor Newsom signed it on Friday, Sept 16.

**AB 1279 (Muratsuchi)** codifies California's commitment to reach carbon neutrality by 2045. To achieve this target, the state needs to reduce its fossil fuel use by 91% — a target that the California Air Resources Board has prioritized in this year's climate change blueprint. Carbon neutrality means balancing the volume of greenhouse gases that are emitted with the amount removed from



IBEW 1245 members descended on the Capitol to advocate for our priority legislation

the atmosphere. This bill was tied to SB 905, in that each had to pass to enable the other. **IMPACT:** This bill helps the IBEW generally and 1245 specifically by accelerating all efforts to decarbonize, especially transportation electrification, which is the sector the State is farthest behind. This will create work for hundreds of 1245 members, both PG&E and contractors, to build out utility infrastructure to support EVs. **STATUS:** This bill passed the Legislature and Governor Newsom signed AB 1279 on Friday, Sept 16.

**AB 1757 (Garcia and R. Rivas)** sets targets for removing planet-warming carbon from the atmosphere with nature-based methods, such as planting trees, restoring wetlands and scaling up public landscaping and urban forestry projects. **IMPACT:** This will have a direct benefit by reducing wildfire risk in high wildfire areas and reducing fuel load through improved forest management practices, thereby greatly reducing fire (and associated credit) risks for all utilities employing 1245 members. **STATUS:** SB 1757 passed the Legislature and Governor Newsom signed it on Friday, Sept 16.

**AB 157 (Ting)** funds, among other things, the creation of California "hydrogen hubs" under the direction of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). GO-Biz is to apply to receive funding from the \$8 Billion regional clean hydrogen hubs program established by the DOE/Secretary of Energy or to otherwise participate in the regional clean hydrogen hubs program. Any Federal

*Continued on page 39*



IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean with Gov. Gavin Newsom at the Climate Package bill signing event on Sept. 16



The Local 1245 Organizing Stewards lobbied for the climate bill in Sacramento.





IBEW 1245 at the State Capitol on Aug. 31, 2022, just hours before the Legislature voted to pass the Governor's Climate Package

## ***"We Are All Diablo Canyon"***

### **IBEW 1245 Floods the Capitol to Push Climate Package Over the Finish Line**

On the last day of the 2022 California legislative session, IBEW 1245 celebrated a monumental victory for our members and the climate, as the State Senate and Assembly voted overwhelmingly to pass the Governor's Climate Package, which includes legislation to extend the life of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. As the largest generator of local, greenhouse gas-free power in the state, Diablo Canyon provides much of the critical, local baseload power that California needs to meet its climate goals. Originally scheduled to be decommissioned in 2025, the governor's climate package would extend the life of the plant for five years, as a bridge away from fossil fuel-based energy to renewables.

Earlier in the day, more than 100 IBEW 1245 organizing stewards, staff and executive board members gathered at the State Capitol in Sacramento in a show of force to demonstrate support for the Climate Package and Diablo Canyon.

Clad in royal blue union t-shirts inscribed with the slogan, *"Power is our Business, Union is our Choice,"* IBEW 1245 members and staff lined the sidewalk leading to the capitol building chanting, *"Keep Diablo Canyon Open"* as legislators made their way to the Assembly and Senate chambers.

"We are here to keep open a valuable

resource for the entire state of California and to protect our membership's jobs at Diablo Canyon," IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean said. "IBEW 1245 members at Diablo Canyon are the people who keep your lights on and the power flowing in California. They are dedicated to what's right — not just for where they work, but for all over California. Today, we are all Diablo Canyon."

"The passage of this package of bills will provide \$40 billion of funding for the jobs of current and future IBEW 1245 members over the next ten years. This work will secure critical resources of clean energy to ensure the reliability of California's grid, while continuing to meet the State's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions," 1245 Assistant Business Manager Hunter Stern explained.

IBEW 1245 Business Representative Dave Sparks, who worked for ten years as an electrical control tech at Diablo Canyon, said, "We're here to support the initiative to extend the life of Diablo Canyon Power Plant. We want to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and safeguard the power reliability of the grid. We want to save 1,100 jobs — of which 450 are IBEW 1245 members' livelihoods — and we want to preserve the \$1.1 billion the plant pumps into the local economies of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara

Counties."

"California needs the power. Diablo supplies 2.3 gigawatts of stable reliable baseload power to the grid," Longtime DCPD IBEW 1245 Business Representative Pat Duffy noted. "Diablo is an essential piece of the power equation for the current power landscape, and California's future energy goals."

If the plant were to shut down as scheduled, IBEW 1245 Senior Assistant Business Manager Bryan Carroll fears we may see, "a much higher risk of blackouts and exorbitant prices for electricity, much like the debacle years ago. We're still paying for that."

"It's important for energy reliability. Our economy depends on it," said IBEW 1245 Senior Assistant Business Manager Anthony Brown. "Working people support extending the life of Diablo Canyon Power Plant because it's important to them as rate-payers, as tax-payers, and as people who want reliable clean energy across the state."

IBEW 1245 Vice President Willy Garis, who worked at Diablo Canyon Power Plant from 2004 – 2018, summed it up: "The number one reason to keep Diablo open is the risk that the grid is in. We're not ready to transition to 100% renewables yet."

IBEW 1245 members from across California joined their brothers and sisters from Diablo Canyon in solidarity to join the fight to preserve their jobs and livelihoods.

"I'm here to save Diablo Canyon and to ensure that the power plant stays open so that we don't have to use fossil fuels," said Thomas Mora, a Customer Service Representative at PG&E's Fresno Contact Center.

Tamara Cacuyog, a PG&E San Rafael Service Clerk, shared that, "I'm here to support Diablo Canyon! We want to keep it open because we need the energy."

ooo

As formal proceedings were about to commence in the Assembly and Senate chambers, IBEW 1245 members packed the upper gallery of the Assembly. Near the end of the morning session, at the request of CA Assemblyman Jordan Cun-

ningham (R-San Luis Obispo), a strong ally of IBEW 1245, the Speaker of the Assembly recognized the large contingent of IBEW 1245 special guests in the Hall. The 110 IBEW 1245 union men and women stood and faced Legislators, who responded by standing, looking up to the gallery, and applauding.

The floor debate was championed by Cunningham, as well as Asms. Chris Holden (D-Pasadena/Claremont) and Bill Quirk (D-Hayward). In the Senate, the effort was led by IBEW 1245's longtime friend and ally, Sen. Bill Dodd (D-Northern SF Bay/Southern Sacramento Valley). After a tense debate, the measures passed the Assembly and the Senate by a landslide vote of 67-3 and 30-1.

"I'm really pleased to see the number of elected representatives who are with us," said Garis. "And I'm just so grateful to be part of a union that is willing to fight for all of us."

IBEW 1245's union leadership has invested years developing strong coalitions and relationships with legislators on both sides of the aisle to advance the interests of the membership and safe, reliable energy for communities across California and Nevada. IBEW 1245's Organizing Stewards have added to the political muscle by participating in strategic campaigns for candidates willing to go on the record in support of workers' rights. The strong showing at the Capitol was evidence of the political power that 1245 has built over several decades.

"The importance of this win cannot be overstated! This is a great example of what we can do when we work together," Dean declared. "There is still much to be done, but this is a great day for our members and for all PG&E employees at the plant, as well as our climate and our communities. My heartfelt thanks goes out to all of the members and staff that showed up to help in Sacramento, as well as our lobbyist Scott Wetch, and Assistant Business Manager Hunter Stern."

"We also want to thank Governor Gavin Newsom and his Administration for their leadership and support of jobs and the transition to a clean energy economy, as well as the Senate and Assembly leadership for their

*continued on page 17*



Legislators applauded the 1245 guests.





The IBEW 1245 campaign kick-off at the IBEW 1245 Union Hall on Oct. 1, 2022. Photos by John Storey

# Fired Up and Ready to Go

## 1245 Organizing Stewards Kick off 2022 Mid-Term Election

To the sounds and lyrics of Twisted Sister's "We're Not Gonna Take It" and Billy Bragg's "There Is Power in the Union," 70 IBEW 1245 activists streamed into the IBEW 1245 union hall in Vacaville to officially kick off the 2022 mid-term election campaign season.

For one-third of the group, this was their first time visiting the union hall and their first time participating in the Get Out the Vote (GOTV) drive for IBEW 1245's endorsed candidates and initiatives.

Local 1245 Assistant Business Manager and seasoned Organizer Rene Cruz Martinez welcomed the group, emphasizing the crucial role each and every IBEW 1245 member in the room will play in building the brotherhood and sisterhood and defending the rights of working families by getting involved in politics.

"If we didn't have a hand in politics, we'd be crushed. Corporations spend millions of dollars on politicians. What we have are boots on the ground. We have you, your family, and your friends to help us elect politicians and win legislation that protects working families," declared Cruz Martinez. "I am inspired by the energy in the room!"

IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean addressed the group saying, "I can't stress how important this is, what you're doing for our Local and the 29,000 members. You are the shock troops of



Assistant Business Manager Rene Cruz Martinez

1245."

Brother Dean lifted up the decisive role that IBEW 1245's organizing stewards played in the recent victories our union achieved in Sacramento. During the last week of the legislative session, a sea of organizing stewards and union staff flooded the capitol in a show of strength, to persuade California legislators — many of whom IBEW 1245 helped get elected — to pass legislation that extends the life of Diablo Canyon Power Plant, along with 11 additional bills (see stories on page 6-7).

"We have 450 members in Diablo Canyon Power Plant who will keep their jobs, because a bunch of people here decided to wear out their shoes in Sacramento," Dean told the room full of organizing stewards and prospective stewards. "A rising tide raises all boats, and we are the best in the nation at this. What we can't win at the negotiating table, we win at the ballot box."

According to Dean, the stakes in the November 2022 mid-term election couldn't be higher, as billions of dollars and the workers rights' agenda stand in the balance in Nevada and California.

He highlighted Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak, who, as of this writing, is locked in

a tight re-election campaign. Sisolak has been a good friend to IBEW 1245, signing legislation that secures billions of dollars for grid hardening and transmission lines. Sisolak is a prime example of a lawmaker who has earned IBEW 1245's endorsement by demonstrating that he prioritizes safe, reliable, and affordable energy, as well as a generation of work for our Nevada members.

Dean also recognized another union champion in Nevada — US Senator Catherine Cortez Masto, a strong labor ally who was instrumental in shepherding the federal Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (which pumps billions of federal dollars into electrical infrastructure and water and transportation projects,

among other IBEW 1245 priorities). Assistant Business Manager and Political Director Hunter Stern shared that, as a member of the Senate Energy Committee, Cortez Masto plays an important role in shaping federal energy legislation that safeguards workers' rights during the transition to a clean, sustainable energy future.

"That's the key — keeping you and your fellow workers working, while transitioning and changing the energy infrastructure to be more climate friendly and less harmful, especially for our kids and the next generation," said Stern, underscoring the importance of supporting Cortez Masto. "Progress is being made, and the candidates we are supporting are advancing that progress."

Brother Stern also pointed out several key races in California that will impact IBEW 1245 members, including crucial elections that directly impact our members at SMUD, Modesto Irrigation District and the city of San Jose, as well as for the California State Assembly and Senate. More than 100 IBEW 1245 members, including organizing stewards, staff, leaders and volunteers, are stepping up to assist with these and other campaigns across our service territory this fall. They're door-knocking at labor households, and also phone banking



Business Manager Bob Dean



Organizing stewards discuss and plan for the 2022 "Get Out the Vote" effort.





and texting fellow union members to let them know about the importance of voting in this election.

"You're going to be hot and sweaty, you may have a few doors slammed in your face, but it's all worth it because you're making a real difference," said Dean. "Some races will be decided by 1,000 votes, maybe even 500, which means every single vote matters! No matter how hard and how hot it is, it absolutely matters that our members vote. It's vital."

IBEW 1245 Organizer Charlotte Stevens walked the stewards through their team assignments, divvying them up between at the Sacramento Central Labor Council, the Alameda Central Labor

Council, the North Valley Labor Federation, South Bay Labor Council and Nevada.

"And if you aren't signed up yet, you can expect a call to recruit you. We're going to need your help!" Stevens declared.

IBEW 1245 Organizer Melissa Echeverria invited stewards to scan the QR code on their work tables to sign up in real time for more shifts and to recruit their co-workers, friends and families to join them. More than twenty organizing stewards signed up for additional shifts, including special Saturday mobilizations to support the campaigns of pro-labor candidates at the Modesto Irrigation District Board, as well as California State Senate candidate and labor leader

## 2022 mid-term election results and highlights will be in the next edition of *Utility Reporter*.

Tim Robertson.

In a recorded message, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler thanked IBEW 1245 saying, "All of you are the beating heart of the [organizing] program. We need you now more than ever. Let's make sure that on Nov 8th, we know that we've done everything we could. Leave no stone unturned. Let's elect pro-worker candidates across the country."

Organizing Steward Darla West, a mechanic at Sacramento Regional Transit (SRT) ended the day with a signature chant of the labor movement: "Fired up! Ready to go!" "Fired up! Ready to go!" "Fired up! Ready to go!"

### The Difference Politics and the Union Make In Our Lives

Over the course of the kick off, IBEW 1245 Organizing Stewards reflected on the importance of politics and the union in their lives and work.

**Quentin Hunter, PG&E Customer Service Rep** — "At the top of the list is job protection. If it wasn't for the union, corporate America would be more likely to give us the boot. We have someone to stand up for us."

**Crystal Harris, PG&E Operating Clerk** — "For me, it's about solidarity. I feel comfortable knowing we all have each other's back. I don't know anyone in DCP, but it was important to support them. It makes a difference."

**John Hoang, PG&E Field Meter Reader** — "Safety. We have homeless, drugs, all kinds of things in the street. I'm not afraid to turn a job down or to speak with my shop steward and share that I don't feel safe...that's a big deal. Having the union back me up when I don't feel safe is one of the best things."

**Tim Neal, PG&E Customer Service Rep** — "This job gave me a great opportunity, money, to live a good life. I always thought PG&E was a great company,

but having IBEW 1245 behind us is what makes everything so wonderful. I like where I work, but I love being a part of this union and organizing!"

**Rafael Bustos, SMUD Facility Stationary Engineer** — "SMUD just went through our first year of a new agreement. We bargained for six months. SMUD came in aggressive, non responsive, not respectful. It was amazing to see the resources that were brought in to support us; seven of us and three IBEW staff, including legal. At the end of the day, because of the resources and bargaining strength, we were successful. And remember, SMUD is an open shop. Workers do not have to pay dues. After negotiations, we saw about a 12% increase in our membership!"

**Danielle Bradly, PG&E Customer Service Rep** — "This is my first union. I came from Wells Fargo Bank. I was there 15 years, and one day got a phone call saying 'You're done.' They just cut me off. I'd thought I'd retire there. But it worked out for the best [because I end up as an IBEW member at PG&E]. I feel more secure. I feel the love!"

### Organizing Stewards Remember Brother Ron Borst

At the election kick off, organizing stewards paid tribute to brother Ron Borst, a long-time IBEW 1245 leader, an active organizing steward and co-founder/president of the Reno-Sparks IBEW 1245 Retiree Club who recently passed away over Labor Day. (See In Memoriam on page 37.)

"Ron would say, 'If it hadn't been for you guys and the union, the retirees wouldn't have a medical plan,'" IBEW 1245 retiree and Organizing Steward Bob Veiera reflected.

"I'm active because of Ron. I didn't do

*continued on page 38*

**Mike Tilden, PG&E Journeyman Electric Transmission System Operator** — "Getting out of the Marines hit me pretty hard. For a decade, I spent every day with a purpose, surrounded by people I considered family. The summer I got out, I returned to LA with no real purpose and absolutely no idea what to do next. I found myself in some pretty dark places, finding comfort in drugs and alcohol. I bounced from odd job to odd job, couch to couch, and even lived in my truck for a period of time. I was lonely, broke, depressed, and had no idea what to do. Without even realizing it, I had allowed myself to become that kid who lacked direction, drive, and motivation all over again. My girlfriend at the time, wife now, was the only bright spot in my life and in all honesty, I think she probably saved my life. In 2014, we came to northern California, and I got a job working graveyard shifts at a factory in Fairfield. Working conditions there were abysmal, safety culture was non-existent, and the workers had no voice. 24/7 production was the name of the game, often at the expense of the well-being and safety of the employees. Coming from the aviation community where we were so safety conscious and one error could be the difference between life and death to a place like that didn't sit well with me at all, but just like everyone else there, I needed the money, so we all just showed up and tried to get through the night. One night, one of my co-workers there started talking to me about IBEW and the opportunities that are available throughout their jurisdiction. I applied, tested, and interviewed for the apprenticeship and to my delight, was offered the role and started in September of 2016.

"Because of IBEW, we never wonder where our next meal is going to come from, we never wonder how we're going to pay our bills, and because of IBEW, I've regained my self-respect.

"I was honored to be appointed as a Shop Steward by my Business Rep, Dave Sankey, to help defend the contract that makes this all possible through the collective bargaining of those who have come before us and fought so hard for everything that we have. I was fortunate enough to, with the backing of Business Rep Fred Aboud and Business Manager Bob Dean, stand up a new Peer to Peer Safety Initiative referred to as 'Regulate the Voltage' and serve as its inaugural Chairman, doing everything we can to make sure every one of our sisters and brothers goes home to their family every day. And last year, I was afforded the opportunity by Rene, Rick, Charlotte and the rest of the organizing staff to come aboard with all of you as an Organizing Steward. We live in a strange timeline in the world right now. Economic volatility, uncertainty about the future of our climate, and creeping authoritarianism dominate the everyday news cycle. The one constant that we can count on throughout it all, however, is that the IBEW will be there for us. Training, collective bargaining, fair treatment, worksite safety, and RESPECT. We fight hard for these and we don't give an inch. When our Union, our family, comes under attack from negative outside influences, we fight. And when we fight, we win."



The IBEW 1245 staffers spearheading the Get Out The Vote campaign — Organizer Melissa Echeverria, Assistant Business Manager Hunter Stern, Lead Organizer Rick Thompson, Organizer Charlotte Stevens, Senior Advisor Eileen Purcell, and Assistant Business Manager Rene Cruz Martinez



# “Climbing the Ladder, and Bringing My Sisters Along”

## Local 1245 delegates share highlights from the IBEW International Women's Conference

**Laquania Q Thompson,**  
*IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward:*

**“I am STRONG!  
I am a LEADER!  
I am a WOMAN!”**

“IBEW’s 25th International Women’s Conference opened with a powerful start to a fired up delegation of IBEW women from all walks of life.

“The Women’s conference featured a dynamic lineup of inspirational speakers, including US Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, US Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, IBEW Senior Director of Government Affairs Danielle Eckert, Georgia Secretary of State Candidate Bee Nguyen, Georgia Gubernatorial Candidate Stacey Abrams, and many more. My favorite speaker was Stacy Abrams, her way of motivating and captivating a large group was inspirational.

“The Women’s conference also hosted a variety of workshops. My favorite workshop focused on Equality, Inclusion and Belonging. In a culture where one in four women leave their union because they feel that they are not being heard, it is important that we implement these programs.

“The conference ended on a positive note, stressing the importance to speaking up and uplifting all women of the IBEW. I want to make sure when I am climbing up the ladder of success, I am bringing my fellow sisters along.”

**Jennifer Threlfall,** *IBEW 1245 Advisory Council member:*

“Thank You to IBEW 1245 for sending me as a delegate to the 25th IBEW International Women’s Conference in Washington D.C. Each day, we were provided the opportunity to attend activities and classes that helped me learn, among other things, how to become the best IBEW activist I can be. The conference also helped me to make connections, build networks and strengthen the IBEW Sisterhood bond.

“One of my favorite activities was the lobbying workshop, where they provided us with tips and pointers on lobbying and gave us topics we could later discuss when we went to meet legislative staff members on Capitol Hill. I went with my fellow union sisters to visit the offices of two California lawmakers, Congressman John Garamendi and Senator Diane Feinstein. We met with their Chiefs of Staff, discussed important pieces of legislation with them, thanked them for their support of unions, and left them an IBEW Policy Brief on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to read.

“The rest of the conference included other informational and team-building



The IBEW 1245 delegation at the 2022 Women's Conference

classes, as well as some phenomenal speakers from the IO and local government. Another special highlight was getting the opportunity to tour the International Office, Museum and Media Department. Thank you again for sending me as a delegate to this very special conference, I feel these experiences are truly priceless when it comes to strengthening a member’s Union knowledge and bond.”

**Nicole Brooks,** *IBEW 1245 Temporary Business Rep:*

“The Women’s convention in DC had a personal and professional impact on my perspective through insightful seminars and lively discussions on the various aspects of the industry, the union, and our communities.

“During our lobbying visit, I was impressed by the down-to-earth discussion with Congressman John Garamendi’s chief of staff, Bradley Bottoms. We discussed the importance of the PRO Act, its impacts on IBEW 1245 union women, and the societal benefits of strengthening labor laws as the best way to address income inequality and grow the middle class. Later that afternoon, we met with another IBEW group who were in discussion with Senator Diane Feinstein’s legislative assistant, Chloe Koseff, regarding the recruitment and retention of women in the trades. Questions were raised about how to reintroduce trade careers to adolescents at an early age, in middle and high school. Collectively, we felt there must be more outreach and support to women through career days, job fairs and mentorships.

“We also had very engaging seminars. I appreciated the sessions I attended that looked at different perspectives of where we are, and how we become stronger generationally by looking at the future opportunities in our industries, communities, and demographics. A session I attended on economics engaged us by discussing the benefits and effects of

the union directly on families and their communities. They touched on the importance of organizing, legislation, collective bargaining — including the roles women can and will play in growing and strengthening our union.

“The conference in its entirety was the most motivational part for me. I fully appreciated the collaboration of people that it takes to bring a conference like this to fruition. I was very impressed by the seminars and the people in attendance, to discuss our potential as women and how we empower each other. I left feeling inspired and motivated, ready to make an impact through creative and innovative ways, including being the change and taking on leadership roles. Overall, it was an insightful and enlightening experience that I will cherish for a very long time.”

**Dorothy Fortier,** *Retired IBEW 1245 Staffer:*

“As IBEW Director of the Civic and Community Engagement Department Tarn Goelling called the Opening Plenary Session of the 25th IBEW Women’s Conference to order, she noted that this Women’s Conference was the largest ever, with more than 600 participants. Gina Cooper, the first woman to ever serve as an IBEW Vice President, welcomed delegates to the 4th District. VP Cooper was appointed to the position in 2020 and elected to the job at the 40th International Convention earlier this year.

“IBEW International President Lonnie Stephenson noted that 71% of Americans approve of unions, and said that the current job market gives workers power. He remarked that the IBEW is growing, and that our success depends on organizing more women. Women currently comprise 4% of all members in construction, and that we must step up organizing efforts using the principles of IBEW Strong. He acknowledged that discrimination is still a problem, and reminded delegates that an attack on any

member is an attack on all members, challenging every participant to be an organizer and a mentor.

“On Sunday, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler addressed the delegation. She holds the distinction of being the first woman President of the AFL-CIO, the first IBEW member to head the AFL-CIO, and the youngest woman to hold her previous position as AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer. President Shuler challenged delegates to get out the vote for candidates that support worker rights, and talked about the importance of relational organizing (face to face) and the many recent union organizing victories, as well as some of the many organizing drives currently in progress.

“Standout workshops for me included, ‘Strategies to Reduce and/or Interrupt Implicit Bias’ and ‘Build Solidarity and Belonging.’ Participants were asked to practice micro-affirmations (for example, giving another person your 100%, non-rushed and undivided attention, inviting a person to give you honest feedback, and understanding another person’s life/work/spiritual goals). ‘IBEW Structure — An Insider’s View’ provided an in-depth overview of our union structure, rules and policies at the International and Local Union level. Other workshops highlighted leadership development, Robert’s Rules of Order, harassment and discrimination, member engagement, and more. Panel discussions included: ‘Watch Where You Step, There’s Glass Everywhere! Strategies on Shattering the Glass Ceiling,’ ‘Local Union Benefits and Employee Assistance Programs,’ and ‘Connection to Success — International Mentorship Programs, ‘Recruitment Through Community Partners.’”

**Cecelia De La Torre,** *IBEW 1245 President:*

“It had been four years since the last IBEW Women’s Conference, and we all needed this experience to renew our direction. 1245 sent several members that had never attended this conference (or any conference) before, they were very impressed and proud that IBEW had a conference just for the women members. They expressed that they were grateful to have experienced leaders, such as Dorothy and me, to help guide them through the conference process.

“I was surprised when a member from another local called me an IBEW icon. I always knew that Dorothy Fortier was an icon for all that she has accomplished — but when Dorothy pointed out to me that being the first female President of 1245 now puts me in that category as well, and I was humbled.”



## Local 1245 delegates share highlights from the California Labor Federation's 2022 Biennial Convention

**Charlotte Stevens, IBEW 1245 Staff Organizer** — “The California Labor Federation’s 2022 Biennial convention was an inspiring mix of honoring legends that paved the way within the movement, and hope as upcoming generations grabbed the baton to fight on. Local 1245 Organizing Stewards Quentin Hunter, Juan Montoya, and Serena Moss attended as delegates along with members of the union’s staff and Executive Board, and they were able to gain a greater understanding of the process, which energized them to be even more engaged within our local.”

**Quentin Hunter, IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward** — “Attending the Biennial California Labor Federation convention was an experience of a lifetime. To be in a room with so many other unions was an empowering moment ... It was awesome to take part in a historic vote to vote in our first woman and first person of color, Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, as the new



**IBEW 1245 delegates to the California Labor Federation's convention**

Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and we said our best wishes to Art Pulaski as he retired. I learned so much at the convention. Seeing how all the different unions come together like a family at Thanksgiving — with love and admiration for each other, but willing to stand up and fight their own siblings on what they think is right with dignity and respect... it makes me proud to be union strong!”

**Serena Moss, IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward** — “There were so many great organizers who spoke. Of course, Do-

lores Huerta has to be at the top of the list, because of all the important work she’s done over her career, but the Gen Z speakers are on her heels ... and they are really challenging the way outreach is done, using social media. We got to hear from Amazon Labor Union leader Chris Smalls, as well as two Starbucks partners who are leading the union organizing effort where they work. Creating unions from scratch is no small feat!”

**Juan Montoya, IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward** — “It was a fantastic experience attending the 2022 California Labor Federation Biennial Convention in San Francisco. This experience allowed me to recognize further the importance of being active within my union. My participation does not just impact my life and my family’s life. It affects the lives of my peers at PG&E and the millions of others within the California workforce who deserve better wages, benefits, and working conditions.”



**IBEW 1245 delegates with newly elected California Labor Federation leader Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher**



**Organizing Stewards Serena Moss, Juan Montoya and Quentin Hunter with Chris Smalls, head of the Amazon Labor Union**

## Sharing Best Practices at the IBEW Membership Development Conference and Organizing Training

**IBEW 1245 organizing staffers Charlotte Stevens, Rick Thompson and Rene Cruz Martinez, along with Organizing Stewards Maria Renteria, Michael Tilden, Gordon Young, and Brandon Fosselman, represented Local 1245 at the IBEW International’s 2022 Membership Development Conference in San Antonio, TX.**

The conference was preceded by a three-day pre-conference organizing training, with options for newer and more experienced organizers.

“In the new organizing training, they expounded on the fundamentals of planning and preparing for a campaign,” 1245 Organizer Charlotte Stevens reported. “I appreciated learning with organizers from different locals and sharing best practices. It was a great opportunity to further develop my skills as an organizer.”

On Tuesday, August 30, the general Membership Development conference was called to order by IBEW 1245’s own

Jammi Ouellete, who is now overseeing membership development for IBEW International. The conference was packed with training sessions, seminars, workshops and guest speakers.

“The classes and presentations we attended were educational and enlightening,” said Organizing Steward Michael Tilden. “Being extremely new to organizing and the strategies involved, I felt like I was being inundated with lots of new terms and concepts, but in a good way. Just like at the Ninth District Progress Meeting earlier this year, I was inspired by the level of camaraderie, solidarity, and spirited energy amongst the members at each of the classes and presentations.”

“The breakout sessions were more targeted and provided insight on specific processes for organizers,” reported Organizing Steward Brandon Fosselman. “I personally attended a training on the NLRB and submitting petitions to the NLRB. On day two, I attended a training

on marketing your campaign and unfair labor practices. All of the sessions were detailed and important to the overall training.”

“The conference courses were rewarding and engaging. I attended sessions dedicated to practicing real-world scenarios where organizers practiced active listening, practical ‘dos and don’ts,’ and tips for facilitating organizing conversations,” Organizing Steward Gordon Young said. “I also learned about the use of data and information when analyzing and gathering information for strategic campaigning. And I was able to engage with hundreds of members from across the country, reflecting on best practices for membership development.”

“Fired up and ready to go! This last week of trainings, conferences and classes has definitely sparked up a new fuse for me in working with our union,” added Organizing Steward Maria Renteria. “We were taught and reminded basic skills to engage with our fellow brothers

and sisters. We were instilled information to help us reach our audience. Most importantly, we were awarded with lessons that we will not only use while on the job, but in our day-to-day life as well.”

*Rene Cruz Martinez contributed to this report.*



**IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward Gordon Young (left) and Assistant Business Manager Rene Cruz Martinez (right) with IBEW International President Lonnie Stephenson (center)**

## LOCAL 1245 DELEGATES SHARE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2022 INTER-UNION GAS CONFERENCE

**Robert Mohler, IBEW 1245 Gas Safety Steward** — “This is the second gas utility conference of its kind that I have had the privilege of attending, and they feel very new each time. There’s a different atmosphere among union members all attending for the common good (compared to a meeting sponsored by the company you are employed by). In this case, the future of gas in the industry was the primary concern — but not the

only concern.

“Inclusiveness in the industry, particularly among LGBTQ+ workers, was addressed, and diversity was tethered to this concern. The big message was that everyone, no matter where they come from, should have the same opportunities with the union and the companies we support. Local 1245, I feel, has done a good job in these matters, and I’m sure we will continue to do so.

## “Gas Is Not Going Away”

But the lengthy discussion among the other unions indicated that there is still work to do, and we have good people at work keeping this moving in the right direction.

“In our distribution portion of the conference, the lively and involved discussions centered around leak survey, work performed on older tees. Some companies are remarkably 8+ years be-

*continued on next page*



**Nicole Brooks (right) served as a presenter for the Transmission Storage and Production workshop.**



# Worksite Spotlight: CITY OF LOMPOC

Known as the “City of Arts and Flowers,” the scenic, balmy city of Lompoc, CA is a hidden gem on California’s Central Coast. The palm trees, beaches, vineyards and Spanish style architecture make for an attractive home for Lompoc’s 45,000 residents — and the IBEW 1245 members who are employed by the City are dedicated to ensuring that it’s a great place to live, work and visit.

IBEW 1245 has wall-to-wall representation in Lompoc, meaning that (with the exception of police and fire) the union represents all 165 City workers, from the recycling plant to City Hall to the water department and everywhere in between. In true IBEW fashion, these members take great pride in their work, their skillset, and their union.

## A Wide Variety

Lead Electric Utility Tech Steve Mickelson has worked for the City for almost 32 years, and has been an IBEW member ever since the Lompoc workers voted to join 1245 in 2013. The North Dakota native recalls seeing a job opening for an apprentice line worker in Lompoc. He applied for the job, and as he says, the rest is history.

Like many of his fellow technicians, Mickelson originally worked as a Jour-



Lead Fleet Equipment Mechanic Seth Cannaday

neyman Lineman, and after six years, decided to branch out and learn a different side of the business. He can often be found working at the Electric Receiving Station. His team of technicians is responsible for Lompoc’s two substations and five station class transformers. On any given day, there’s no telling what

Mickelson is up to.

“We could be taking a breaker out of service for maintenance, to writing a 25-step switching order for the line crews, to installing commercial metering, to doing our mapping updates or taking care of SCADA issues,” he said.

The technicians also take on some Wi-



Electric Department Lead Utility Tech Steve Mickelson

Fi and camera work throughout the City.

“It’s a pretty wide variety,” he explained. “It’s everything in an electric utility, except line work.”

## Vast Knowledge of All Kinds of Equipment

As a Lead Equipment Operator in Lompoc’s fleet department, IBEW 1245 member Seth Cannaday is part of a six-person crew that’s tasked with taking care of the City’s 325 vehicles. Their work includes basic preventive maintenance, like fluid changes, brake checks and safety inspections, as well as more complicated tasks, such as engine overhauls and transmission rebuilds.

“Lompoc is kind of isolated, so we don’t have a big metropolis for outside support,” said Cannaday, who has worked for the City for 24 years. “And be-

## Gas Conference, from previous page

hind others in technology in the same field of work. Some locals do not have inserting at all, while it is used very often in the 1245 world.

“I would be remiss not to mention that gas in the industry is absolutely not going away anytime soon, like many have said. Additionally, the union is still very strong, very vocal, very educated, and very motivated to continue navigating our industry and the companies we support for everyone’s common good.”

**Nicole Brooks, IBEW 1245 Temporary Business Rep** — “I was honored to be asked to help with presentations of the ‘Gas Transmission — Storage & Production’ workshop during the 2022 Inter-Union Gas Conference, held September 19-22, in New Orleans, LA. Brother Wilbur Engelhardt from the United Steelworkers and I facilitated the workshops. We had a great turnout

over the two days, with conversations about the use of drones for leak survey training, line inspection for corrosion and the benefits of using them to collect information in unsafe atmospheres.

“Next, we discussed numerous topics, including gas clearances, which were centered around pigging, hydrostatic testing and training, safety standards and their procedures in place (or the lack thereof). There was a lot of information regarding Personal Gas Monitors and how the device is trending to be a type of management GPS tracker tool for the lines of business. We are making our membership aware of the initiative and how it can be used, and to communicate the company’s direction; to better protect us from unforeseen and unnecessary discipline.

“There were also some discussions about FR clothing, laundry services and boot allowances, as well as portable CNG /LNG trailers to tankers, and their

utilization to keep residential and commercial customers in service during clearances. Other topics included cross compression and the capturing and flaring of natural gas to avoid venting and blowing down to atmosphere.

“One topic of note was about Gas controllers in-house vs. contracted out, which generated conversation around filling vacancies, demand of the position, negotiated classifications, and not having enough bargaining members to cover the shifts and workload. We discussed OQs and how hiring retired union members (who performed the work) strengthens the department and retains and promotes knowledge transfer. Another important topic regarded contractors getting more and more of our work. Let’s ask ourselves, ‘If our charging of the projects/cost rundown is not comparative to 3rd party contractors, how can we compete?’ Unfortunately, it appears that more of our work flows to the contractor side and our crews continue to reduce in number, as we have less work to perform.

“In summary, we, as members who perform the work and maintain it, will need to be involved and engaged to protect our work. Be an active part of the vote, be informed on elections and any company-union proposals.”

**Ernie Pena, IBEW 1245 Control the Pressure Committee Chair** — “The first day of the conference focused on how the IBEW is striving for equality and inclu-

sion in its membership, growing constituent groups such as NextGen/RENEW, EWMC and Women’s and Veterans’ groups. The general session was similarly focused on diversity in the workforce, and also touched on the role that hydrogen can play in the natural gas industry.

“In the Service workshop, it was interesting to learn that other gas service companies replace parts on all different types of appliances (not just gas) including refrigerators and other electric appliances. They even sell and rent appliances. One member from another union shared that, during a contract dispute, the company locked out the union members, and the income from the rentals helped pay for replacement contractors until the dispute was resolved. It was also interesting to learn what other companies are doing about identifying and communicating out to other employees about hazards in the field.

“The General session was about politics, and presenter Austin Hastings analyzed how the gas industry’s future will look, with gas still around and the use of new technology to clean up the emissions. The gas industry is actually expanding and replacing diesel engines in the train and cruiseline industries. I think his speech was the most engaging of all.

“I had a great time and learned a lot about how other union members and their companies do similar jobs we do. I hope I can attend another one of these conferences.”



IBEW 1245 delegates to the 2022 Inter-Union Gas Conference





**Water Distribution Operator 2 Cale Maurice (left) and Water Distribution Operator 1 Martin Aramburo**

cause we have an electric department, water treatment, parks, and urban forestry, we have to have vast knowledge of all kinds of equipment.”

He pointed out that even a routine tire change on an industrial vehicle can be a major undertaking. Take a compactor, for example — just one wheel weighs 6,000 pounds!

When the *Utility Reporter* caught up with Cannaday, he was working on a trash truck, removing the automated arm that picks up the garbage can, and installing a new one. Due to supply

shortages, there is a multi-year wait list for some of the vehicles that the City needs replaced, which presents a unique challenge for Cannaday and his crew. “We’re doing a lot more rebuilding and overhauling to make the equipment last longer than its technical life expectancies,” he explained. “This trash truck is way past its life

cycle, but we have to keep it on the road for at least another two or three more years.”

## Maintaining Safe Streets

Lead Street Maintenance Worker Chris Silva and his team play an integral role in road safety, from patching potholes, to sign and painting work in the streets, to repairing sidewalks lifted by tree roots. Their traffic safety shop replaces road signs and does stencil painting on the

roads that need re-marking.

The *Utility Reporter* found Silva as he was testing out some new equipment the City was considering purchasing.

“We’re grinding out a bad area of asphalt, and we are going to replace it with new asphalt,” he explained. “We have a demo sweeper showing up to see how well it sweeps up the grindings, and then we will patch it back in.”

Some aspects of the job are less obvious but just as necessary.

“We do quite a bit of wheat abatement,” said Silva. “Our storm drains drain into the East-West Channel, so we do a lot of wheat abatement to keep the channel clean.”

## “If They’re Not Going, They’re Not Knowing”

As the members at the City of Lompoc approach the ten-year anniversary of the day they voted to join IBEW 1245, they’re able to reflect on the improvements that 1245 has made in their work and their lives. Many of the members at Lompoc had previously had different representation, and the difference between then and now is notable.

“Since IBEW 1245 has come in, it’s been more fair. With every negotiation,



**Treasury Clerk Jessica Fabing**

we’ve always gotten something,” said Cannady. “[Before 1245] we were losing massive pay and having furloughs. Always backwards, not forwards.”

“The union has really helped our wages, that’s for sure,” Mickelson noted. “[During bargaining] they did a really good job with the extra benefits, just by knowing the electrical side, and what’s important to the line workers and the technicians — overtime pay, standby, things like that. They’ve really helped us. I’m very happy with 1245.”

As founding members of their Local 1245 unit, the Lompoc workers know how important it is to stay informed and active with the union.

“I try to attend every union meeting I possibly can,” said Cannady. “I try to encourage everybody to go. If they’re not going, they’re not knowing.”

*Photos by John Storey*



**Water Distribution Operator 1 Martin Aramburo**



**Electric Department Utility Tech 2 Shawn Tosh**



**Police Record Technicians Brenda Cardenas (left) and Candace Justice**



**Water Department Senior Meter Tech Armando Zepeda**



**Water Department Senior Maintenance Tech Albert Diaz**



**Left to right: Heavy Equipment Operator Ricky Williams, Street Maintenance Joe Zazlieta, Lead Street Maintenance Chris Silva and Lead Street Maintenance Gustavo Lopez**



**Water Department Lab Tech 1 Maureen Concha**



**Water Department Operator Jared Stadiford**



**Senior Water Distribution Operator Dana Drake**



**Electric Department Utility Tech 2 Scott Brade**



## Members Approve Four-Year Agreement at Yuba Water Agency

The IBEW 1245 members at Yuba Water Agency approved a new four-year agreement with a 5% general wage increase on July 1 of 2022 and 2023, and a wage reopener for years three and four. The union secured additional market adjustments for the Supervising Comm Tech, Supervising Elec Tech, and Senior Operator classifications.

The agreement also includes:

- Qualified Applicator stipend of 5% while performing the work.
- Additional \$150 per month towards the Agency's contribution to the retired annuitant's health care, and reopener language to coincide with the timing of the wage reopener.
- An increase to the CTO bank of 20 hours (from 40 to 60).
- Juneteenth added as a holiday.
- An additional five vacation days after 20 years.

There were also some cleanup and clarification language changes incorporated. The bargaining committee included Chad Brow, Jason Newton, Pat Reilly, and myself.

— Dominic McCurtain, IBEW 1245 Business Representative

## IBEW 1245 Members at City of Berkeley Approve Three-Year Agreement

After several months of contentious negotiations, the IBEW 1245 bargaining committee reached a tentative agreement with the City of Berkeley on a three-year successor MOU. The tentative agreement was ratified by the membership with an 88% approval vote.

The agreement provides for 3% general wage increases in year one, 3% in year two, and 1% in year three. Also included is a 3% Electrician State Certification premium, \$1,000 lump sum, and PEPRA employee savings in the amount of 1.25% of base wages.

Thanks to members Greg Marwick and Ryan Schaeffler who joined me on the bargaining committee.

— Charley Souders, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

## New Agreement Approved at Lindmore Irrigation District

The IBEW 1245 members at Lindmore Irrigation District have approved a new three-year agreement, with general wage increases of 4% in 2023, 4% in 2024 and 4% in 2025. We secured two new holidays (December 24th and Martin Luther King's Birthday), and an additional 2% in District's contribution to employees' 401k pension plan. Additional improvements include new stand-by language, improved rates for weekends and holidays, and new language to address breaks and merit increases.

Special thanks to Shop Steward Gary Vail who worked with me on the negotiations.

— Jaime Tinoco, IBEW 1245 Business Rep



Find your current collective bargaining agreement at [ibew1245.com/agreements](https://ibew1245.com/agreements)

## IBEW 1245 Members Unanimously Approve New Agreement at Island Energy

The IBEW 1245 members working at Island Energy have voted unanimously to approve a new three-year agreement. The agreement includes general wage increases of 5% in 2022, 4% in 2023, and 3% in 2024. Additionally, standby duty will now be split into a daily amount, and the deferred compensation plan matching contribution will increase to \$150/month for full time employees and \$75/month for part-time employees. We also agreed to reopener language for overtime and stand-by provisions.

Thank you to our bargaining committee members, Bradley Bond, Sonny D'Amico, and Kamal Neogy, along with recently retired Sr. Business Rep JV Macor.

— Kim Camatti, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

## IBEW 1245 Members Approve Three-Year Agreement at South San Joaquin Irrigation District

On August 22, the IBEW 1245 members at South San Joaquin Irrigation District ratified a three-year agreement. The agreement includes general wage increases of 7% effective upon Board approval, with 3.5% in January of 2023 and 2024 (plus wage reopener language for 2023 and 2024, based on a CPI of 4.5% or higher). The union also negotiated a number of improvements, including increased matching contributions from the employer to the deferred compensation fund, an increase in boot allowance and work pant reimbursement, the addition of standby language, and increased contribution from the employer towards dental, vision, long-term disability and life insurance. We also secured an additional holiday, and expanded the 'immediate family' definition for bereavement leave. There was minor clean up to old language around the *Janus* decision, and the addition of new union leave language.

We were able to improve vacation for our Division Managers during the irrigation season, from two blocks to three blocks, and we also bargained an increase to the hours compensated when Division Managers are working the irrigation season, from 11 hours pay to 12 hours pay (four of those hours are paid at an overtime rate). WTP Operators will see an increase in shift differential, from 3% to 5%, and we revised the job description for WTP Operators to ensure that once an operator obtains their T3 they automatically move the wage rate of a T3. We also removed restrictive language about the use of CTO for the WTP Operator, allowing them to use their 40 hours of CTO any way they want (the previous language restricted their use to of the CTO to supplement holiday pay).

Special shout out to the members who joined me on the bargaining committee — Colin Sparkman, Greg Wallace, Brian Nevitt, and Ryan Thrasher. They did an outstanding job.

— Sheila Lawton, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

## Three-Year Agreement Approved at City of Healdsburg

The IBEW 1245 members at the City of Healdsburg approved a new three-year agreement by a vote of 32-11. The MOU has already been approved by the City Council, and wages went into effect and retroactively paid back to July 1. The new agreement includes:

- Mutual Assistance rate of pay increased to double time rate of pay.
- Call back response time increase from 30 to 60 minutes.
- General wage increases of 4% in 2022, 1-4% in 2023 (based on Consumer Price Index), and 1-4% in 2024 (based on Consumer Price Index).
- Deferred Compensation starting in 2024 matching dollar for dollar, up to \$1500 per year.
- Addition of the Juneteenth Holiday.

Thanks to our bargaining committee members, Ethan Cottrell, Jason Hageman, Scott Mann, John Sanneman and recently retired Sr. Business Rep JV Macor, as well as Kris Kuntz, who served as election judge, and Valerie Macor who served as teller.

— Kim Camatti, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Election Judge Kris Kuntz and Teller Valerie Macor tally votes at the City of Healdsburg.



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Billy Atkins, Jr.

At 93 years young, PG&E Electrical Technician and IBEW 1245 member William “Billy” Atkins Jr. is still on the job every day, choosing to continue working instead of riding off into the retirement sunset. The *Utility Reporter* caught up with Atkins at the PG&E Martin Service Center in Daly City where he works. Atkins, who first joined IBEW 1245 back in 1956, shared a bit about his stint in the Navy, his time at PG&E, his secret to his long career, and his newest hobby — restoring jukeboxes.

### Where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in Washington, D.C. and then moved to Alabama and lived on my grandparents’ farm. At eight or nine years old, my grandfather threw me on a tractor and said, “You’re going to plow the field.” I got on the tractor, he started it up, I pushed down the clutch, pushed it and pulled it in gear. That was my initiation.

I joined the service in Alabama, and I never knew I was going to wind up in San Diego for boot camp. That’s what brought me to the west coast.

### Tell us about your military service.

I was in the Navy from 1948 to 1952. I was aboard a ship called USS Frank Knox DDR-742. I was in Korea with the Task Force 477 from about 1949 to 1951; I was a Gunner’s Mate. I came out and became an electrical technician over a period of time.

### Did you go from the Korean war straight to PG&E?

I did. What happened was a total accident. I joined the service for three years and I got extended for one year. I got

married in 1951 and they shipped me over and they sent me back out to sea. I got out of the service on July 20, 1952. Then I started looking for jobs. I went to four or five different places. I went to the phone company, the shipyards, several different places trying to find a job, because I was married, and I had one child, I’m not going to loaf. I got interviewed by PG&E which was on 445-447 Sutter St. (there was no 77 Beale St. back then). On July 30, 1952, PG&E hired me to go to work for them. So that’s what I did. I started out as an operator.

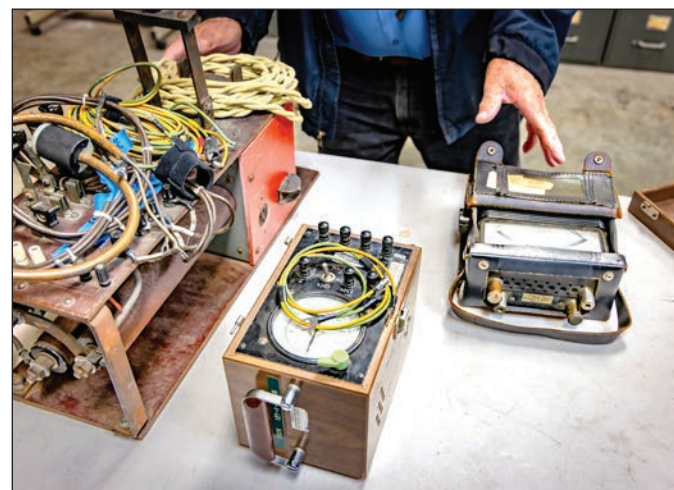
### What got you interested in the electrical trade?

Well, when I got out of the service, I didn’t have a trade really. I mean, there was no trade for a Gunner’s Mate, but I had responsibilities. So, I got out of the service and then I got to work for PG&E and once I became an operator, I saw what maintenance people did. I saw the real electricians at the time, they took care of the whole substations. So I said, “Well, I want to get in the maintenance department.” Once I got in there, I went to Heald’s College for a couple years and qualified to be an electrician.

Then I got to be in the maintenance department and then I waited from 1952 to 1958 to become an apprentice. And then, I became an apprentice electrician. Then I became a technician. And then a few years later on, I decided, well, I want to be at the tech job. So I went to the apprentice tech schools in Emeryville, on the second floor. You learned with a pencil and a piece of paper and a slide rule, you didn’t have calculators [at that time].

### Tell me about your job. What do you do most days?

Yesterday I went to Pacifica, tested a couple of relays. Today, I’ll go test something in another substation. And then we get clearances, routine clearances, that you’ll take a cable out and you put one guy on one end and another guy on the other end and you get both ends at the same time. That



Atkins, with his old testing equipment, which he still uses on occasion



SF Division Electric Substation, Maintenance & Communication Dept from 1980. Atkins is bottom row, third from the right.

Utility Reporter



William “Billy” Atkins, Jr.

way you don’t take the cable out twice. So that’s kind of routine work and it’s kind of emergency work. And then you fix GE or Westinghouse relays, any kind of relays.

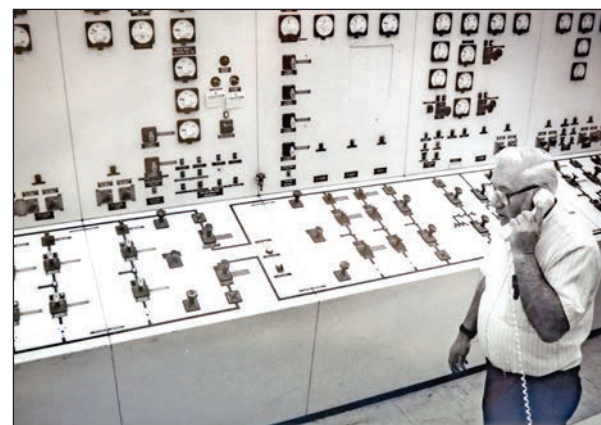
I’ve got shelves of electro-mechanical relays. That’s what I started out with, testing with carbon pile and an amp meter and a timer. Today, you hook it up through a box, push a button, and it tests it. Today’s technicians come from a different era, I came along with typewriters, they come along with computers.

### You’ve been at PG&E for 70 years, what’s your secret?

It’s just consistency. I like the job. I like challenges. I go towards the work instead of away from it, that’s the best I can say. And then I set up a routine. I’m here from the time I’m supposed to be until the time I go home, and I try to accomplish something and give them their money’s worth every day.

### What’s the most exciting or enjoyable thing you do at your job?

It’s self-satisfaction of getting a job done today, or solving a problem that basically nobody else can solve. I go



Atkins working at the Mission Substation in 1992

towards problems if there’s something wrong. I think that’s it in a nutshell right there.

### Do you have any outside hobbies?

I have a lot of hobbies. I was a neighborhood mechanic, I worked on automobiles. I restored six Mustangs over a period of time. I switched to doing old-time two-way radios, and now my other hobby is working jukeboxes, which are 45’s. I fix them up and I’ll probably give them to all my kids. I have five children, four girls and one boy. Lots of grandchildren and even some great grandchildren.

### What does your family think about you continuing to work?

For the last 10 years I’ve said, “I’m going to retire next year” — but they don’t believe me anymore. My wife, Rose Marie, she likes the idea that I go to work.

### And your wife, was she in the Navy?

No, she grew up in San Francisco in the Mission District. She went to Catholic school, and here I am, a renegade from back East and South. It worked out, and I’d do the same thing over again.

Photos by John Storey



Atkins at the shop in Daly City in 2022



Watch the video that PG&E produced in honor of Brother Atkins’ 70th year with the company.

<https://rb.gy/brgj9m>



## Remote Work at PG&E: Striking a Balance with R2-22-22

At the end of 2020, with many of our clerical members at PG&E working from home, the company came to IBEW 1245 interested in developing a Letter of Agreement around remote work for our members in CCO/Contact Center Operations. A few months later, PG&E came to 1245 to discuss a systemwide remote work agreement.

Prior discussions led to two letter agreements, 20-13 and 21-01 — however, these agreements were specific to the presumed temporary nature of COVID-19 and purposely basic. We knew we would need a lot more detail if we were going to make remote work ongoing in a post-COVID 19 world. We also knew that the company could at any time choose to return the entire workforce to in-person work 100% of the time if we didn't put a long-term agreement in place. The majority of our members who have been working remotely made it clear that they wish to continue doing so, and so we stepped up to the task of negotiating terms that would protect our members and provide them with options for long-term remote work.

Initially, PG&E Labor Relations Specialist Carlos Cortes consistently met with me and 1245 staffers Mike Adayan and Dave Sankey in an effort to develop contractual “rules of the road” for any of our members who might work remotely in the future. We had various items to negotiate, but what made it difficult is that we had no template to try to predict what issues would crop up with remote work. In short, we didn't know what we didn't know.

While all letter agreements take some time, this process was particularly lengthy, as input from supervisors, managers and our membership poured in. Adayan put it best when he said, “This one had more twists and turns than an itchy snake.”

The topics addressed in the original LA 22-22 (and its sister agreement 22-23 for CCO) included: Office equipment and ergonomics, temporary return to the office HQ due to Company or member need, long term return to the office due to Company or member need, overtime and overtime meals, travel, reimbursement for expenses, and employee engagement (cameras). Both par-

ties realized that there may be issues that could come up that were not addressed by the Letter; for that we agreed to include an oversight committee to initially address unforeseen circumstances.

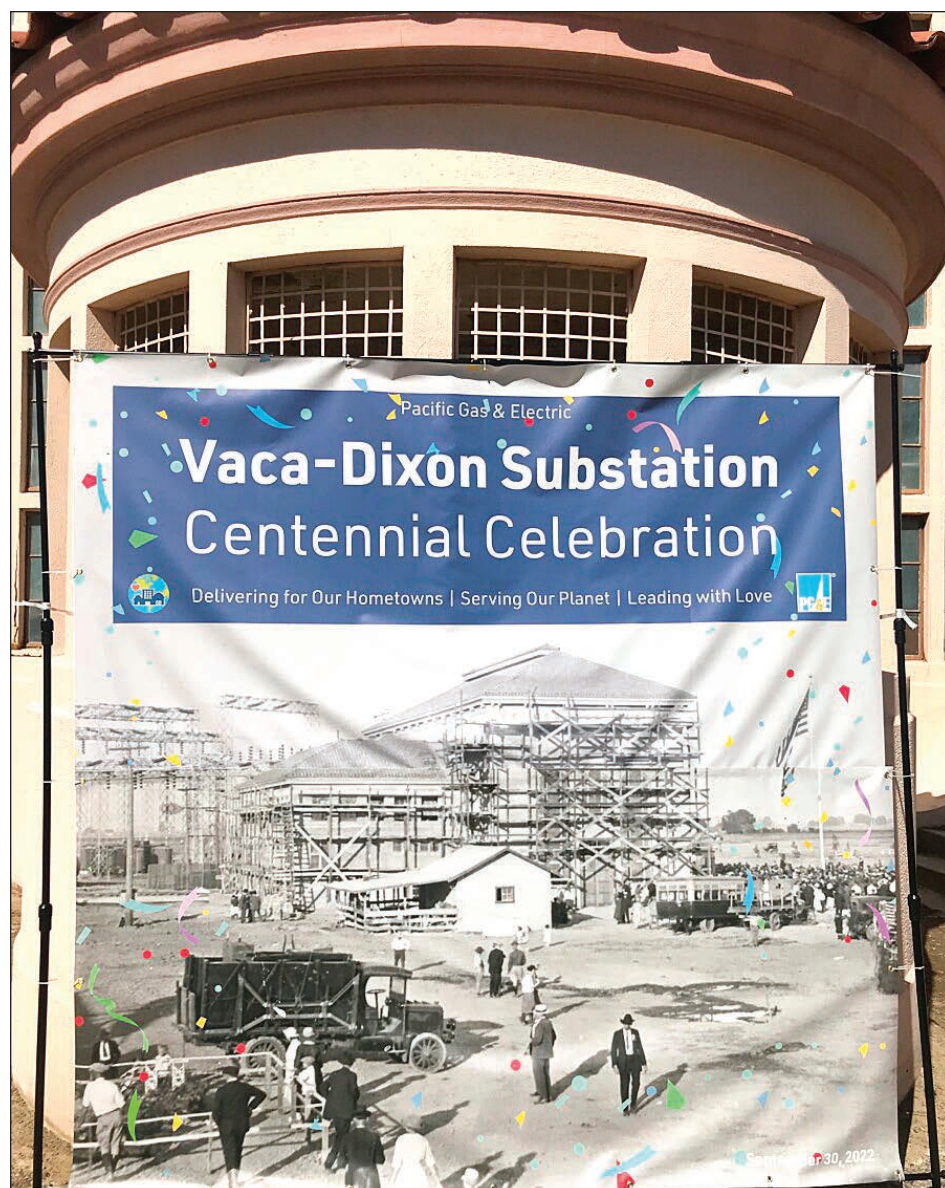
Throughout these discussions, IBEW 1245 had the impression that the majority of departments at PG&E would have their clerical employees work remotely at least two days per week. We were just as surprised as our members were when, in July, PG&E told employees that all Operating Clerical and T300 Clerical support would be returning to on-site offices 100% of the time.

There was a large outpouring of displeasure with that announcement, and the subsequent explanations from supervisors to their clerical employees only seemed to exacerbate the frustration amongst the membership. Local 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean decided that we needed a way to communicate directly with our clerical members. We invited more than 2,300 members to a Townhall style call on July 19, where we fielded nearly 100 questions over the course of two hours!

After the displeasure shown by our members, we sat back down with PG&E leadership as they considered how to address different desires for on-site or remote work from the various lines of business, and how they could meet the expressed desire for remote work options from their employees. Ultimately, IBEW 1245 and PG&E agreed to amend the original Letter Agreement 22-22 to allow for up to four days per week on-site to fall under the “hybrid” designation. Line of business leaders figured out a way to allow many more employees at least one remote day per week. This solution, included in LA R2-22-22, seems to have struck a balance between what our members want, and what the various lines of business at PG&E felt they needed for on-site support.

We appreciate each and every member who reached out to express their opinions and suggestions during this process. As we move forward, we are hopeful that this hybrid work experience works well for both our members and for PG&E.

— Bryan Carroll, IBEW 1245  
Senior Assistant Business Manager



Local 1245 joined PG&E's centennial celebration for the Vaca-Dixon Substation.

## IBEW 1245 Executive Board Members Join Vaca-Dixon Substation Centennial Celebration



Members of the IBEW 1245 Executive Board attended the celebration.



President Cecelia De La Torre

[Left] Business Manager Bob Dean spoke at the event.



# Worksite Spotlight: PG&E's Fremont Meter Services

When PG&E's meters, regulators and other gas and electric equipment need a checkup (or are ready to check out), they come to the hard-working IBEW 1245 members at the Gas and Electric Meter Service (GEMS) facility in Fremont.

PG&E Utility Worker Diamond Williams works in the electric meter shop, sorting each piece of equipment to identify its next step.

"I grab the meters, I type in the batch number on each meter. I enter it in SmartTrack. SmartTrack will determine if the meter needs to be QAed, or if it needs to be tossed," Williams explained. "Over the past few months,



Electric Meter Utility Worker Diamond Williams

we've been caught up on a lot of the meters. So now we are retiring the majority of the meters, because we've done enough QA."

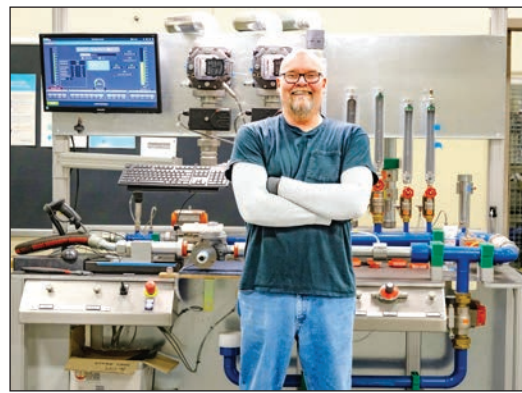
Williams has been in this role at GEMS for about eight months, but she has previously worked all over the PG&E system.

"I've done different assignments. I've been in different places, tried different things. I've been an operating clerk, I've been a material handler, and now I'm a utility worker," said Williams, who has been with PG&E as a hiring hall employee since 2015. "I eventually do want to become permanent. I'm open."

On the gas side of the GEMS facility, 42-year IBEW 1245 member and Senior Meter Regulator Mechanic Bill Stage uses an automated gas regulator tester to make sure the equipment is up to snuff.

"I QA test all the regulators that come in from the vendors and that we are going to ship out to the field," Stage explained. "I make sure that they all operate correctly, within the boundaries of the regulators."

Stage explained how gas regulators take the 60 pound



Senior Meter Mechanic Bill Stage

pressure from the street and reduce down to seven inches, around a quarter of a pound, which is the operating pressure for homes and meters. The regulators also serve an important safety purpose.

"If something happens inside the house where the gas line gets blocked or something like that, and the pressures go high, this regulator will shut the service off," said Stage. "And if there's a leak, it will also detect that, and if it gets

below the operating pressure, it will slam shut the meter or the regulator."

Williams, Stage and their co-workers value the fact that they have IBEW 1245 in their corner.

"Well, I'm a big fan of the union," said Stage, who served as a 1245 shop steward for 38 years. "They're always looked out for people's rights and benefits, for all the employees. And in my humble opinion, IBEW is one of the strongest unions that I've ever heard of."

"I think the union's great. I have no complaints at all," said Williams. "I'm not a permanent employee — I'm through the hiring hall — but we still have union reps that protect us, and I love it."

Photos by John Storey



Plant Assistant Marcos Paz



Plant Assistant Charles Ramirez



Plant Technician Daniel Baldespinosa

## Diablo Canyon, continued from page 7

collaboration and support of these bills," added Stern. "They are complex, detailed and required input from a large number of important stakeholders. Local 1245 provided needed input to make certain these bills will benefit all the customers we serve."

Lula Dodd, a 42-year IBEW 1245 member and shop steward who works as a senior administrator at Diablo Canyon, kept her co-workers at the plant updated throughout the day through a series of text messages and photos.

"All of the feedback I received was extremely positive, and the members at DCCP were very appreciative for the work being done by the IBEW staff and organizing stewards on their behalf," she said. "Many members did not realize how much work and effort is still going on behind the scenes by their brothers and sisters in an attempt to extend the life of the plant and protect their jobs, and they're very thankful."

— Eileen Purcell, IBEW 1245 Senior Advisor to the Business Manager

Photos by John Storey



Watch stewards and staff greet the legislators. Video: <https://bit.ly/3WdND4B>



Business Manager Bob Dean, center background, addressed the 1245 contingent.





## “BEST OF THE BEST” IBEW 1245 MEMBERS WIN INTERNATIONAL LINEMAN’S RODEO

Proving once again that IBEW 1245 is home to some of the world’s most skilled and exceptional linemen, Local 1245 members and Journeyman Linemen Josh Klikna, Dustin Krieger and Steve Johnson from Turlock Irrigation District won First Place Overall at the 2022 International Lineman’s Rodeo in Kansas City.

“We couldn’t be prouder of our team from TID — they truly exemplify what it means to be 1245,” said Business Manager Bob Dean. “As linemen and as competitors, these brothers have demonstrated the commitment, skill, expertise, and attention to detail that sets 1245 apart from the rest. On behalf of our entire union leadership and staff, our heartfelt congrats to Josh, Dustin and Steve!”

The 1245-sponsored championship team beat out 241 other teams with their incredible speed and accuracy, clocking in almost a full minute faster than the next-best team — no small feat in a competition that is often determined by fractions of a second.

“I was in disbelief,” said IBEW 1245 Journeyman Lineman Josh Klikna, describing the moment that his team was announced as the winner during the Rodeo awards ceremony. “It came as a complete shock to us! My wife, who was watching the awards ceremony on a live stream, was texting me as she saw the results. She was pretty ecstatic.”

“It felt like a long time coming!” said Line Foreman Dustin Krieger. “We’ve been trying to do this for 12 years! It was

kind of surreal, hard to believe at first. Took a bit to kick in that we actually, finally did it!”

In addition to winning the esteemed “Best of the Best” award, the decorated team from TID naturally nabbed first place in the municipal division, marking the fifth time they won their division since they first began competing at the international level in 2010. They also placed first in Mystery Event #2, third in Mystery Event #1, and fourth in the pole climb event.

Klikna noted that the two mystery events (which are always a surprise to the competitors) felt somewhat familiar to him and his teammates, because they were similar to other events they had faced at the American Public Power Association (APPA) Lineman’s Rodeo. At the APPA Rodeo, the events are known to the competitors beforehand, so the team usually practices those events in advance of the competition, finding the best ways to improve their time without incurring deductions. That practice may very well have been what put the team over the top — but Klikna also thinks that mindset played a role as well.

“This year, we went in thinking that First Place Overall just wasn’t ever going to happen for us,” he said, underscoring that the team has competed in every international rodeo since 2010, plus the APPA rodeos and other regional and local competitions. “We had kind of written off the possibility of winning the whole thing; we were more focused on

doing well in our municipal division. I think maybe we were more relaxed, not so much pressure, and better able to focus and find ways to shave off those seconds.”

As the third 1245 team to bring home this prestigious title since 2014, the TID team believes this win is the culmination of years of hard work, experience, practice and strategy — plus a bit of luck.

“We’ve been close so many times. One year, I think we missed it by eight seconds! We got lucky this year,” said Krieger. “Plus, we’ve been climbing together for so long, so that’s helped us out.”

Klikna credits the union as a big reason why they pulled off this huge victory.

“I just want to give a big thank-you to

everyone at 1245 — the leadership, the staff and the members — for all your support,” he said. “We never would have gotten here if it wasn’t for the union backing us.”

The TID team has no plans to leave the Rodeo circuit, and they hope they can repeat their incredible performance at next year’s Rodeo.

“I want to win again — It was fun! I liked that a lot,” said Krieger. “I want to keep competing as long as my body lets me do it. We’re getting older, so it’s getting harder. And I am a foreman so I don’t really climb [at work] ... Next year, maybe we’ll put in some more practice so we can try and do it again!”

— Rebecca Band,

IBEW 1245 Communications Director

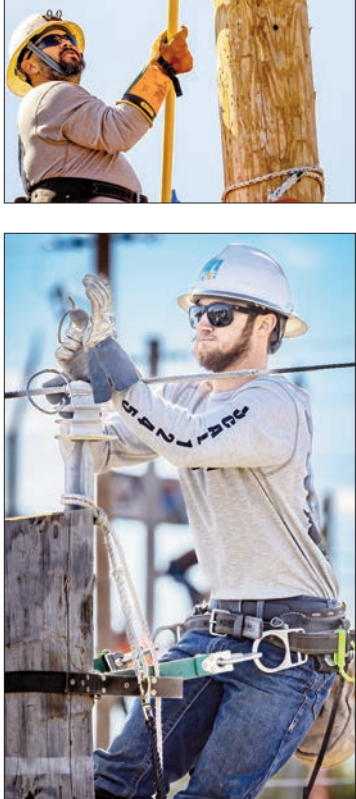
### **Congrats to Klikna, Krieger and Johnson, as well as the other 1245 members who shined at the Rodeo, including:**

- Journeyman Linemen **Carson Penny, Jordan Calls and Ben Boardway**, PG&E — 3rd Place Overall Journeyman Team, 2nd Place in the Investor Owned Utility (IOU) division
- Journeyman Linemen **Brandon Dance, Francisco Flores and Dustin Curry**, PG&E — 6th Place Overall Journeyman Team, 5th Place in the IOU division
- Journeyman Linemen **Matt McCurdy, Seth Jones, Marcus McIlwain**, PG&E — 12th Place Overall, 11th in the IOU division
- Apprentice Lineman **Francisco Villanueva**, PG&E — 6th Place Overall Apprentice, 3rd Place IOU division
- Apprentice Lineman **Alex Clardy**, PG&E — 7th Place Overall Apprentice, 4th Place IOU division
- Apprentice Lineman **Austin Trevino**, PGE — 11th Place Overall Apprentice, 6th place IOU division

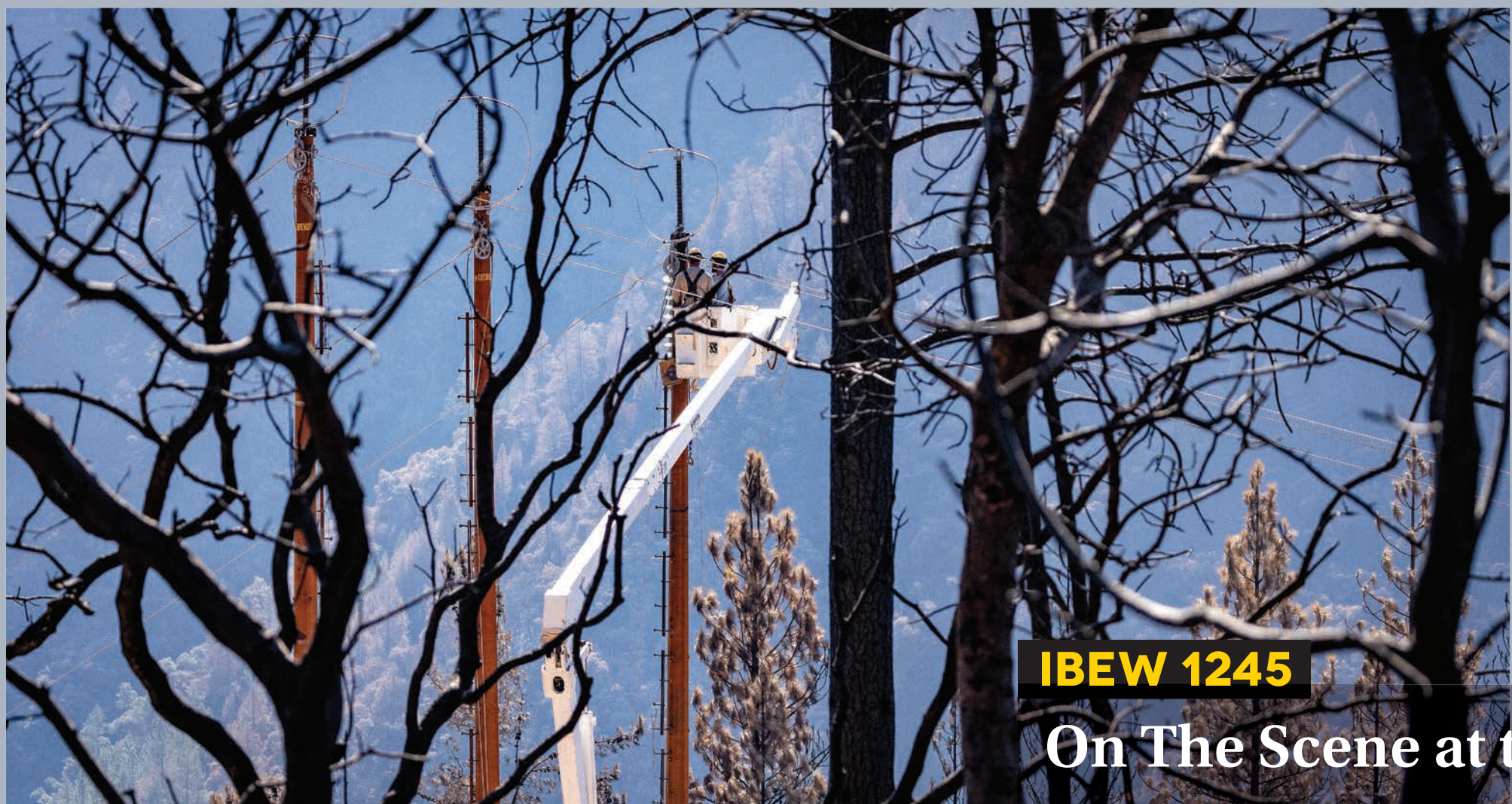




TID Linemen Steve Johnson, Josh Klikna, and Dustin Krieger who won 1st Place Overall World Champion Journeyman Team. Photos by John Storey







**IBEW 1245**

**On The Scene at t**









# ADVISORY COUNCIL

President Cecelia De La Torre swears in Advisory Council members (from left) Albert Jimenez, representing Stockton Division of PG&E-Physical; Steven Ross, representing SMUD and City of Lodi; and Piotr Majewski, representing City of Santa Clara and San Jose Division of PG&E.



Business Manager Bob Dean shakes hands with Advisory Council member Steve Mayfield, representing PG&E Materials, after he was sworn in.

## Highlights from the October 2022 Advisory Council Meeting

- The IBEW 1245 journeyman lineman rodeo team from Turlock Irrigation District is the "Best of the Best!" Business Manager Bob Dean congratulated Josh Klikna, Dustin Krieger and Steve Johnson for winning first place overall as well as winning their division for the fifth time at the International Lineman's Rodeo. More highlights from the Rodeo on page 18-19.
- Senior Assistant Business Manager Al Fortier announced that Sunoptics, an IBEW 1245 signatory manufacturing employer, is closing its doors. The union has negotiated a severance agreement for the members at this facility in Sacramento, and Business Rep Cruz Serna is working with displaced members to assist them in finding other work opportunities within the union.
- Financial distress at PG&E could have ripple effects for IBEW 1245 members, particularly those working for contractors, over the winter months. Enhanced Vegetation Management is ending on Dec. 31, and IBEW 1245 is



Assistant Business Manager Dylan Gottfried

working to assist impacted tree trimmers with finding permanent jobs elsewhere in the system.

- Assistant Business Manager Dylan Gottfried noted that negotiations at NV Energy and City of Redding were still ongoing at the time of the meeting. These two properties have been in contentious bargaining for some time, and the union is working diligently with the membership to secure an agreement that will garner the members' approval.
- The IBEW 1245 TransCanada unit in Idaho has been transferred to IBEW 77.
- Senior Assistant Business Manager Anthony Brown remarked that there's been an uptick in violence against 1245 members and utility workers more broadly, in what has become a statewide and nationwide issue. IBEW 1245 continues to advocate for legislation that would make this type of crime a felony.



Senior Assistant Business Manager Anthony Brown



Assistant Business Manager Rene Cruz Martinez

- Senior Assistant Business Manager Bob Gerstle announced that IBEW 1245 has worked with PG&E to ensure that all the winners of IBEW 1245's Jairus Ayeta Line School Scholarship will be hired on at PG&E, once the winners complete their program at VOLTA Line School.
- Assistant Business Manager Rene Cruz Martinez shared that, throughout October and early November, more than 100 IBEW 1245 organizing stewards, staffers and leaders were working to get out the vote for labor-endorsed candidates in California and Nevada. Having pro-union friends in the legislature is essential for matters that we cannot win at the bargaining table. For an example, look no further than the recently passed legislation to extend the life of Diablo Canyon (see page 7).

- John Ashford from the Hawthorn

Group presented a detailed overview of the political landscape and what's at stake for union members in the 2022 election. He noted that nine U.S. Senate races and six gubernatorial races are exceptionally close (within the margin of error in recent polling) and focused heavily on the hotly contested Senate and Gubernatorial races in Nevada.



John Ashford

## Local 1245 Leadership Celebrates Scholarship Winners

At the autumn 2022 Advisory Council meeting, the IBEW 1245 leadership was pleased to recognize the outstanding young people who have been awarded scholarships from IBEW 1245 this year.



Ethan Jorgenson, son of 1245 member Craig Jorgensen, who works for PG&E on the gas side, won the Weakley Line School Scholarship, and will be attending Northwest Lineman School. He is pictured here with 1245 President Cecelia De La Torre and Business Manager Bob Dean.



Kaycee King, a 1245 member working for PG&E, won the Veterans Scholarship. King served in the Marines for four years and is a PowerPathways graduate.



Kendra Anderson received the Survivor Scholarship. Her grandfather, Kenneth Anderson, worked in outside line and was a 40-year member of IBEW 1245.



Breanna-Allyssa Mertz won the Stalcup Community College Scholarship. She is the daughter of longtime 1245 Shop Steward Karen Mertz who works for PG&E in Stockton.

We would also like to congratulate the other winners who were not able to attend the Advisory Council meeting:

**Jenna McMartin**, daughter of PG&E member David McMartin, and winner of the **Al Sandoval scholarship**

**Gabriella Ramirez**, daughter of NCPA member Darryl Ramirez, and winner of the **Stalcup scholarship**

**Jacob Wallace**, son of member Greg Wallace from SSJID, and winner of the **Weakley Trade School scholarship**.

Applications for Local 1245's 2023 scholarships are now being accepted. Learn more at [www.ibew1245.com/scholarships](http://www.ibew1245.com/scholarships), or see page 29.



# Workers at Nevada Democratic Victory Say “Yes” To IBEW 1245

On July 25, campaign workers at Nevada Democratic Victory secured IBEW 1245 union representation. This new bargaining unit is made up of about 40 field organizers and regional organizing directors who work to mobilize voters in Nevada. As campaign organizers, they are hired early in an election year, with non-traditional schedules and workloads that grow increasingly more and more demanding until the election is over, at which time they are laid off and move on to other campaigns.

Notably, this unit joined IBEW 1245 through a voluntary recognition agreement. This means that, rather than first building majority support by signing authorization cards and then demonstrating that majority again in a separate union election, the workers gained representation based on cards alone. Nevada Democratic Victory agreed to accept the cards as proof of support for organizing and recognized the union voluntarily, without the drawn-out and often contentious election process. Cordial, cooperative union-employer relations like this are far too uncommon in organizing, but

ultimately show a greater level of respect for the rights of workers.

Nevada Democratic Victory is a state-wide coordinated campaign organization, working to elect many of the same candidates that the labor movement endorses in Nevada. In fact, this fall, many IBEW 1245 members volunteered for some of the candidates that NDV supports, because they stand behind Local 1245's legislative goals. By having pro-worker, pro-IBEW electeds in office, our union has been better able to protect our members' jobs in Nevada by fighting deregulation and other unsound energy policy. But though NDV's staff may have similar goals, these workers haven't enjoyed the same worker protections, benefits and advocacy that we have through our union.

Some important background: 2020 was a big year for campaign workers organizing into unions throughout the country, and IBEW was at the forefront of this movement. Staff from three presidential candidates' campaigns chose IBEW representation. So too did workers from many state party coordinated campaigns, including Georgia, Idaho, Florida, Ohio,

Pennsylvania, Maine, Mississippi, Texas, Arizona, and Nevada (the latter of which organized into Local 1245). When these workers leave their unionized campaigns and begin to work at new ones, they carry their experience with the IBEW to their new campaigns, cross-pollinating this sector with new pro-union attitudes and experiences.

We experienced this first-hand earlier this year, when a campaign organizer from Nevada Democratic Victory reached out to Local 1245. He had been represented by another IBEW local on a 2020 campaign, and wanted to explore the idea of unionizing at his new employer. Some of our members might think, “What would campaign organizers see in an electrical workers' union?” But these workers have the same wants and needs as any of us — fair schedules with properly announced changes, equitable and transparent pay that keeps up with the cost of living, and an effective way of handling grievances. We negotiate over and make progress on these issues every day. It's clear that vigilant representation and exceptional bargaining success have come to define the IBEW as the right

choice.

After a series of Zoom meetings and many one-on-one conversations, the workers at NDV decided to say Yes to Local 1245 and began signing authorization cards. Once an unmistakable majority had committed to organizing, we petitioned the campaign with a letter seeking voluntary union recognition, and it wasn't long before the process was complete. To verify our majority support to the employer, Nevada State Senator Chris Brooks graciously assisted us as a neutral third party. Senator Brooks compared the authorization cards to a list of workers provided by NDV, affirming that a majority of employees had chosen IBEW while protecting their confidentiality.

The newly minted unit has shared their bargaining agenda with 1245 Business Rep Adam Weber, who is leading negotiations with the campaign's executive leadership. With their effort, I have no doubt IBEW 1245 will remain at the forefront of the movement to improve wages and working conditions for campaign workers nationwide.

— Rick Thompson, IBEW 1245  
Lead Organizer

PG&E's gas system coordinators monitor and manage the utility's gas transmission system. By observing load trends, inventory needs, and pipeline pressure limitations, they play a crucial role in ensuring safe and reliable operation of the gas transmission and storage system. Their work includes issuing operating orders to Gas Control Center, compressor stations, and storage field personnel, who in turn make changes in flows and pressure to meet the system's demands.

For these coordinators, the path to going union started in 2020 when a member of the workgroup reached out to IBEW 1245 to find out how to organize. That worker soon moved on to another job, and while the topic of joining IBEW still arose from time to time among the remaining coordinators, pandemic-related remote work stalled the conversation. It took the coordinators by surprise when,

in April of 2021, labor relations held a meeting with them to deliver an anti-union presentation. Management seemed to be under the impression that the workgroup had already signed union authorization cards and were actively organizing, but at the time, the IBEW 1245 organizing team had yet to speak to a single system coordinator.

By spring of this year, the gas system coordinators had returned to their work-site in San Ramon with a renewed perspective on their jobs, and were ready to have a frank discussion about organizing. Among the reasons they decided to reach out to Local 1245 were inconsistent disciplinary practices, being required to be on-call even when on vacation, and a lack of advocacy or support when inter-

## PG&E Gas System Coordinators Vote to Join IBEW 1245

acting with supervision. Most of the system coordinators have been members of unions before, either at past employers or in other classi-

fications within PG&E, so they knew the difference that a union makes at work. After a few productive meetings with IBEW 1245 Organizer Charlotte Stevens and myself, the group was ready to move forward.

We filed for a union election with the National Labor Relations Board at the beginning of June. At first, the company objected to the inclusion of senior gas system coordinators, arguing that they were supervisors and thus ineligible to join the union. However we had already interviewed senior coordinators, and determined that they did not meet the criteria of ‘supervision’ as outlined by the

law. Thankfully, we were able to reach an agreement with the company, and the election went forward with the 14-person unit, senior coordinators included (the expert gas system coordinator position is not a part of the bargaining unit).

Aided by the volunteer efforts of IBEW 1245 Organizing Stewards Danielle Bonds and Donyale Davis, the Local 1245 organizing team ensured a victory by calling the unit's card signers and making sure they received and returned their ballots. When the votes were tallied on July 25, the gas system coordinators won their election with 78% Yes.

Bargaining proposals are now completed, and the group will begin drafting their first offer to the company with the assistance of Senior Assistant Business Manager Anthony Brown and Assistant Business Manager Mike Adayan.

— Rick Thompson, IBEW 1245  
Lead Organizer

## IBEW 1245 Joins First Annual Reno LaborFest

This Labor Day, IBEW Local 1245 participated in the inaugural LaborFest in Reno, NV. Sponsored by the Northern Nevada Central Labor Council and its affiliates (including 1245), LaborFest is a celebration of the middle class and Nevada's working families, with live music, food trucks, a beer garden, kids zone, and more — fun for the whole family and open to the general public.

More than 40 different unions and employers from every industry, including utilities, construction, shipping, fire-fighting, teaching, and entertainment came together to make this event possible. IBEW 1245 Business Rep Adam Weber, Executive Board Member Ryan



The IBEW 1245 team at Reno LaborFest

Morris, Reno Unit Chair Britney Morris and I were all proudly representing 1245 at LaborFest!

Labor Day weekend is a busy one in Reno and Sparks, and LaborFest had some competition. Not only was Burning Man ending, but the World-Famous Rib Cookoff was in full swing. During the early morning setup, the talk between all the participants pointed to one thing, “Will

members of our community show up?”

LaborFest opened to the public at 11 am and we all waited patiently. Members of the community started to show up in a steady stream. The event ended up being a huge success, with about 3,500 members of the public in attendance. Additionally, many notable labor leaders, elected officials and candidates came to demonstrate their support for organized labor. Nevada Lt. Governor Linda Cano Burkhead and Susie Martinez, the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Nevada AFL-CIO, both stopped by our booth to support 1245.

All funds raised from LaborFest will go to the NNCLC Nonprofit Worker Benefit Corp, a 501(c)3\* nonprofit providing apprenticeship, member, and community assistance (tools and boots for apprentices, emergency support, etc.). This

event will surely become a staple within our community, and we look forward to attending next year.

See the media coverage of LaborFest at <https://rb.gy/vpukch>

— Dylan Gottfried, IBEW 1245 Senior  
Assistant Business Manager



From left: Senior Assistant Business Manager Dylan Gottfried, Lt. Gov Lisa Cano Burkhead, 1245 Unit Chair Brittny Morris, NV AFL-CIO Leader Susie Martinez, Business Rep Adam Weber



# Vegetation Management and Tree Trimmers

This quarter has been busy, with the all the IBEW 1245 Vegetation Management Business Reps spending a lot of time doing crew visits and meeting with contractors. We are in constant communication with both, regarding contracts, grievances, SIF investigations and more, and we are continually finding better ways to communicate and correspond quickly to events that happen in real time.

The Business Reps are continuing their advanced training to better help our members. Recently, the vegetation management and outside line staff attended a seminar on LINECO benefits. It was very informative, and our staff now has a much more in-depth knowledge of this health and welfare benefit.

Unit meeting agendas and recording minutes in English/Spanish are being distributed to all unit chairs and recorders for more organized meetings. We are continuing to seek out new unit leaders and stewards. The objective is to be seen, heard and continue to swear in members at all unit meetings. Feedback has been very positive in response to these changes and the Reps' consistent presence.

## Line Clearance Tree Trimming (LCTT)

Engagement with members and contractors has been our primary focus, with an emphasis on welcoming new members and building positive relations with all contractors. Assistant Business Manager Mark MauMau and the LCTT Representatives are looking to address a number of challenges, including

- Vast area, large number of units, language barrier and contractors to oversee
- Safety vs actual training vs complacency
- Contractors reporting timely for member benefits
- Electronic process for filing and collecting data for grievances
- Working with new contractors to better understand the LCTT Agreement and to comply with employee safety, upgrades, assessments and JATC training
- Transitioning members when there are layoffs and changes due to contractor movement in those affected areas
- Processing Vegetation Management Inspector grievances and strengthening the membership

Things have settled down somewhat

since the LCTT was ratified, however we still have industry challenges due to budget restraints, safety incidents, contract violations and grievances. We anticipate that the undergrounding projects over the next decade will have an impact on the line clearance side in terms of jobs; as overhead lines are transitioned to underground line, the number of trees that need to be trimmed will be reduced. We are continually monitoring this matter, and at the current time, our LCTT membership continues to grow. During the last contract ratification vote, we mailed out ballots to 5,700 IBEW 1245 members performing LCTT work — numbers not seen anywhere else in the country. Even with the reductions projected over the coming years, we still believe we will have more tree members working in our jurisdiction than anywhere else for many years to come.

Sadly, we had a fatality in the Boulder Creek area. Seventeen-year member Jorge Soria lost his life while working for Davey Tree. More information can be found on page 36. Business Rep Abel Sanchez is serving in the SIF committee to determine what lead to this tragedy.

The Keep The Clearance (KTC) Committee continues to meet and build under Fred Aboud's leadership.

## Events

Staffers Eileen Purcell and Liz McInnis are spearheading the return of the 1245 Soccer Tournament, May 6, 2023 in Ripon for all LCTT and VMI units. We expect to have eight teams and good participation to build camaraderie and solidarity. We are also working on training materials, program, and dates to hold Safety and Shop Stewards Seminar in 2023.

## CALNEV JATC Sub-Committee

We continue to work with LCTT Training Director Dan Kallai and his great staff to promote and build on the training of the line clearance tree workers. The challenge is getting 80+ signatory contractors on the same page to recognize the value of training and certifying a qualified workforce. We will be holding an informational meeting with contractors about CDL testing and grant money that is available from the state.

As of October 12, we have 1,290 people enrolled in the training course on Canvas. We've issued 88 journeyman certificates, 23 third step certificates, and 51 second step certificates. There are now 15 full time instructors in the field between San Diego and Redding.

## Pole Test and Treat Agreement

IBEW Locals 1245 and its bargaining committee came to terms on a three-year tentative agreement with Davey Tree Surgery and Osmose the expiring Pole Test and Treat Agreements.

This Agreement expires on December 31, and we are pleased to announce that this new tentative agreement contains some significant enhancements to the current CBA, including substantial wage increases and total compensation

for all classifications; increases in the company's contribution to the NEAP pension fund; an HRA contribution for health care; and a daily subsistence (the last two items are new to this agreement). There is a new paid floating holiday added plus a few additional improvements. This is another great contract recently negotiated by Local 1245 and the bargaining committee is recommending a YES vote. As of this writing, voting on the TA is currently in progress, and the ballots will be counted in early November.

## Organizing

The following LCTT and VMI contractors became signatory to 1245 over the last quarter:

- **Line Clearance Tree Trimming**  
Arbor Vision Inc.  
Plum Tree Clearing, Inc.  
Prasad's Tree Service LLC  
Sierra Pacific Tree Care Inc.
- **Vegetation Management Inspector**  
TreeTrax Consulting LLC

## Northern Area

Things in the northern area are still very busy. The new contract went into effect and there were a lot of phone calls about what has changed. Almost everyone was happy with the new wages and the five-year term, as this gives the members some security knowing what the future holds for them. The contract pay increase was retroactive back to June 1, with most companies making the retro payments, but we are still finding some employees that have not been paid. They are usually taken care of by the next pay cycle once they are reported to the company.

There has been a lot of confusion about PG&E shutting down companies once they have an accident. If a company has a serious on the job accident, PG&E will shut down the entire company, and their subcontractors, until the company submits a return-to-work plan that addresses what happened and how to prevent it from happening in the future. This plan then must be approved by PG&E before the employees are allowed to return to work. Sometimes this process can take weeks, and without much we can do as the customer wants to see a detailed plan on how they will address the safety concerns before returning them to work. We have had

several companies go through this process and the members get very worried when they have been out of work for a couple weeks, especially when the accident wasn't even in their area.

I have been on two SIF investigations with PG&E. One was for a member falling out of a tree while working for Wright Tree service in Humboldt County, and one for an arm laceration from a falling limb in the Calistoga area for Core Tree Service. Our team came up with some corrective action plans to try to prevent these types of accidents from happening again.

We are seeing some reductions in the contracting VMI positions, and we are receiving calls on a regular basis from those members in the field. Some companies are offering transfers to other areas if they have openings, but a lot are just being laid off. We try to keep a list of where other companies are hiring so we can help with relocating when we can. We are hoping of an upturn in January for the start of the new year.

We are still finding a few yards that have employees that are not signed up with 1245 as is required by the contracts. This causes problems when the employee needs to use their medical benefits and they aren't activated yet. We are continually improving our processes of identifying and correcting these issues, and also rely on our members in the field to reach out to their Business Representative if they are aware of this in their yard and area. We just want to make sure that our members get what was negotiated and bargained for.

Fire season is now upon us in full force. We all must be very diligent in make sure we are fire safe on our job-sites. One small mistake this time of year could be very detrimental.

## Central East Area

Never a dull moment in the Central East. Fire season is still in full swing. As of this writing, the Mosquito fire is still active and has spread to 60,000+ acres. Hot days and high winds continued to feed this devastating fire. Our members are assisting crews out there, doing all they can to help their community. Let's remember to lift a prayer for all the families affected by this.

Lately, there have been many incidents in the field with both our VMI and tree groups. We continue to have serious

continued on page 27

## New video / Video nuevo

### Keep the Clearance / Mantenga la Distancia

An important safety message for IBEW 1245 line clearance tree workers. / Un mensaje importante de seguridad para los IBEW 1245 podadores de árboles para el despeje de líneas.

**WATCH:**  
<https://bit.ly/3zhXP2g>







Este trimestre ha estado muy ocupado. Todos los Representantes de Negocios de Manejo de la Vegetación de IBEW 1245 han estado dedicando mucho tiempo a visitas a las cuadrillas y a reuniones con los contratistas. Estamos en comunicación continua con ambos, en lo que respecta a contratos, quejas, investigaciones de SIF (incidentes graves y fatalidades) y mucho más, y continuamente encontramos mejores maneras de comunicarnos y responder rápidamente a eventos en tiempo real.

Los Representantes de Negocios continúan recibiendo capacitación avanzada para ayudar mejor a nuestros miembros. Recientemente, el personal de manejo de la vegetación y el personal externo de líneas asistieron a un seminario sobre los beneficios de LINECO. Fue muy informativo, y nuestro personal ahora tiene un conocimiento mucho más profundo de este beneficio de salud y bienestar.

Los programas de las reuniones de las unidades y las actas en inglés y español se están distribuyendo a todos los presidentes de las unidades y registradores para tener reuniones más organizadas. Continuamos buscando nuevos líderes de las unidades y delegados. El objetivo es ser visto, escuchado y continuar la juramentación de los miembros en todas las reuniones de la unidad. Los comentarios sobre estos cambios y sobre la presencia constante de los Representantes han sido muy positivos.

## Poda de árboles para el despeje de líneas (LCTT)

Nuestro enfoque principal es interactuar con los miembros y los contratistas, con énfasis en dar la bienvenida a nuevos miembros y construir relaciones positivas con todos los contratistas. Mark MauMau, Gerente Asistente de Negocios, y los representantes de LCTT están planificando abordar una serie de retos, entre los que se incluyen

- Grandes áreas, gran número de unidades, barrera lingüística y número de contratistas a supervisar
- Seguridad vs. capacitación real vs. complacencia
- Los contratistas deben informar de manera oportuna a los miembros sobre las ventajas de los miembros
- Proceso electrónico para archivar y recopilar datos de quejas
- Trabajar con nuevos contratistas para que comprendan mejor el

Acuerdo LCTT y para que cumplan con la seguridad de los empleados, los ascensos, las evaluaciones y la capacitación de JATC

- Transición de los miembros cuando hay despidos y cambios debido al movimiento de contratistas en las zonas afectadas
- Procesar las quejas de los Inspectores de Manejo de Vegetación y fortalecimiento de la membresía

Las cosas se han calmado un poco desde que se ratificó el LCTT, sin embargo, todavía tenemos desafíos en la industria debido a restricciones presupuestarias, incidentes de seguridad, violaciones de contratos y quejas. Preveemos que los proyectos de cableado subterráneo durante la próxima década tendrán un impacto sobre las actividades de despeje de líneas en términos de empleos; a medida que las líneas aéreas se transfieran a líneas subterráneas, el número de árboles que se deben podar se reducirá. Estamos continuamente vigilando este asunto, y en este momento, nuestra membresía LCTT continúa creciendo. Durante la última votación para la ratificación del contrato, enviamos las papeletas a 5,700 miembros del IBEW 1245 que realizan trabajos de LCTT; este es el mayor número de miembros en el país. Incluso con las reducciones proyectadas en los próximos años, creemos que todavía tendremos más miembros de poda de árboles trabajando en nuestra jurisdicción que en cualquier otro lugar durante muchos años.

Por desgracia, tuvimos una fatalidad en la zona de Boulder Creek. Jorge Soria, miembro por diecisiete años, perdió la vida mientras trabajaba para Davey Tree. Puede encontrar más información en la página 36. El Representante de Negocios Abel Sanchez está participando en el comité de SIF para determinar por qué sucedió esta tragedia.

El Comité del programa de seguridad “Mantenga la Distancia” (KTC) sigue reuniéndose y creciendo bajo el liderazgo de Fred Aboud.

## Eventos

Los empleados Eileen Purcell y Liz McInnis están liderando el regreso del Torneo de Fútbol 1245 para el 6 de mayo de 2023 en Ripon, para todas las unidades LCTT y VMI. Esperamos tener ocho equipos y una buena participación para desarrollar camaradería y solidaridad. También estamos trabajando en materiales de capacitación, programa y fechas para celebrar el Seminario de Delegados de Seguridad y Sindicales en 2023.

## Subcomité JATC de CALNEV

Continuamos trabajando con Dan Kallai, Director de Capacitación de LCTT, y con su excelente personal para promover y desarrollar la capacitación de los podadores de árboles para el despeje de líneas. El reto es conseguir más de 80 contratistas signatarios que estén de acuerdo en reconocer el valor de la capacitación y la certificación de

una mano de obra cualificada. Tendremos una reunión informativa con los contratistas acerca de las pruebas para obtener la Licencia comercial para conducir (CDL) y el subsidio disponible del estado.

Al 12 de octubre, había 1290 personas inscritas en el curso de capacitación en Canvas. Hemos emitido 88 certificados de jornaleros, 23 certificados de tercer paso y 51 certificados de segundo paso. Actualmente hay 15 instructores de tiempo completo en el campo entre San Diego y Redding.

## Acuerdo “Pole Test and Treat”

El IBEW Local 1245 y su comité de negociación llegaron a un acuerdo tentativo de tres años con Davey Tree Surgery y Osmose sobre los Acuerdos Pole Test and Treat que están por vencerse.

Este Acuerdo vence el 31 de diciembre, y nos complace anunciar que este nuevo acuerdo tentativo contiene algunas mejoras significativas al CBA actual, incluidos aumentos sustanciales de salarios y compensación total para todas las clasificaciones; aumentos en la contribución de la compañía al fondo de jubilaciones NEAP; una contribución de HRA para la atención de la salud; y gastos de manutención diaria (los dos últimos componentes son nuevos en este acuerdo). Se agregó un nuevo día festivo flotante y otras mejoras adicionales. Este es otro gran contrato recientemente negociado por el Local 1245 y el comité de negociación recomienda votar “Sí”. Al momento de escribir este informe, la votación sobre el TA está actualmente en curso, y las papeletas se contabilizarán a principios de noviembre.

## Organización

Los siguientes contratistas de LCTT y VMI se convirtieron en signatarios del 1245 durante el último trimestre:

- **Podadores de árboles para el despeje de líneas**  
Arbor Vision Inc.  
Plum Tree Clearing, Inc.  
Prasad’s Tree Service LLC  
Sierra Pacific Tree Care Inc.
- **Inspectores de Manejo de Vegetación**  
TreeTrax Consulting LLC

## Zona norte

La zona norte continúa muy activa. El nuevo contrato entró en vigor y hubo muchas llamadas telefónicas acerca de lo que ha cambiado. Casi todos estaban contentos con los nuevos salarios y la vigencia de cinco años, ya que esto les da a los miembros algo de seguridad al saber lo que les depara el futuro. El aumento de la remuneración del contrato era retroactivo desde el 1o de junio, y la mayoría de las compañías han estado haciendo los pagos retroactivos, pero todavía hay algunos empleados a quienes no se les ha pagado. Generalmente esto se soluciona en el siguiente ciclo de pago una vez que se informa del problema a la compañía.

Ha habido mucha confusión ya que PG&E está suspendiendo compañías si la compañía tiene un accidente. Si una

compañía tiene un accidente grave en el trabajo, PG&E suspenderá a toda la compañía y sus subcontratistas, hasta que la compañía presente un plan de retorno al trabajo que aborde lo ocurrido y cómo evitar que suceda en el futuro. Este plan debe ser aprobado por PG&E antes de que los empleados puedan regresar al trabajo. Este proceso a veces puede tardar semanas y no podemos hacer mucho ya que el cliente desea ver un plan detallado sobre cómo abordar los problemas de seguridad antes de que permitir que regresen al trabajo. Varias empresas han pasado por este proceso y los miembros se preocupan mucho cuando han estado sin trabajo durante un par de semanas, especialmente cuando el accidente ni siquiera ocurrió en su zona.

He formado parte de dos investigaciones de SIF con PG&E. Una de ellas era sobre un miembro que cayó de un árbol mientras trabajaba para Wright Tree Service en el Condado de Humboldt, y otra en la zona de Calistoga, para Core Tree Service por una laceración de un brazo causada por una rama que cayó. Nuestro equipo elaboró algunos planes de acción correctivos para tratar de evitar que este tipo de accidentes vuelvan a ocurrir.

Estamos viendo algunas reducciones en las posiciones de VMI contratados, y estamos recibiendo llamadas regularmente de esos miembros en el campo. Algunas empresas están ofreciendo transferencias a otras zonas si tienen vacantes, pero muchos simplemente están siendo despedidos. Tratamos de mantener una lista de dónde están contratando otras empresas para poder ayudar con la reubicación cuando es posible. Esperamos un repunte en enero para el comienzo del nuevo año.

Todavía estamos encontrando algunos patios con empleados que no están inscritos en el 1245 tal como lo exigen los contratos. Esto ocasiona problemas cuando el empleado necesita usar sus beneficios médicos y todavía no están activados. Estamos mejorando continuamente nuestros procesos de identificación y corrección de estos problemas, y también confiamos en que nuestros miembros en el campo se pongan en contacto con su Representantes de Negocios si están conscientes de que esto sucede en su patio y en su zona. Solo queremos asegurarnos de que nuestros miembros obtengan lo que se negoció.

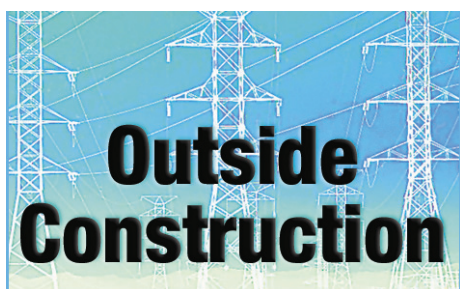
La temporada de incendios ha llegado con plena fuerza. Todos debemos ser muy diligentes en asegurarnos de que cumplimos con las medidas para protegernos de los incendios en nuestros sitios de trabajo. Un pequeño error en esta época del año podría ser muy perjudicial.

## Zona Central Este

No tenemos tiempo para aburrirnos en la zona Central Este. La temporada de incendios todavía está en pleno apogeo. Al momento de escribir este informe, el incendio en Mosquito sigue

continúa en la página 29





## California

Work outlook continues to be strong, but we are beginning to see a slow-down as we approach the end of the year. As the utility is looking to save money, they are shifting a lot of the work that can be shifted to the internal workforce. This includes a few different work types and inspectors. Things typically slow down as we approach the holidays, and November is when we anticipate seeing the biggest reductions until 2023.

As previously reported, system hardening will be around for years to come, and one of the biggest initiatives is the massive undergrounding work that PG&E announced last year. This is a major shift in the type of work we see here, and operators and skilled civil workers will be in high demand. PG&E has committed to 175 miles in 2022, and they are on track to get there with a majority of civil work for this first 175 miles completed.

Over the last three months, outside line contractors have had no less than 10 vehicle rollovers, including one that involved a third-party fatality. Most of these rollovers were caused by brake failure due to overheating. This is typically due to inexperienced drivers and/or lack of experience driving down steep grades. When driving down grades, please consider using low range 4x4, the lowest gear possible, exhaust brake, and stopping to let the brakes cool before continuing your drive. Most automatic transmissions in bucket and line trucks will automatically up shift when going down grades (to keep the motor from over revving). Please look out for one another by confirming that you and your crew know the braking system on the truck and trailer you are driving.

## Nevada

IBEW Local 1245 is working with NV Energy to establish a worksite agreement for the GreenLink projects, ensuring this work will all be done by IBEW hands. There are two separate sections of this project with different start dates, however all the contractors bidding this work are required to bid both projects at the same.

GreenLink West is 350 miles of 500kV transmission line that starts in Las Vegas and ends in Yerington. The West section will be the first to be built — projected to begin in 2024 with a planned in-service date of December 2026. There is already a Project Agreement on this section. Typically, with projects that transverse over multiple local jurisdictions, the agreement and package comes from the local with the most miles of lines. In this

case, Local 396 has the majority of this West line. For this section only, Local 396 will be the dispatch point. IBEW Local 1245 and 47 members who have book 1 status at home will be granted Book 1 status at 396 for this project.

Greenlink North is composed of a 500kV line from Ely to Yerington as well as three 345KV lines from Yerington to Reno. The North section is 100% in 1245's jurisdiction, and the California Outside Line Agreement will be used for this project. We are working to finalize the Project Agreement for this section.



Ralph Armstrong

These projects — plus the SWIP north 500kV line (if approved) from Ely to Midpoint Idaho, which is also under a project agreement — will ensure years of transmission work for our members.

At the time of this writing, we have a couple different OSL contractors doing work around the Lake Tahoe Basin (Wasatch, Summit) along with other crews spread out throughout eastern Nevada (Wasatch and Sturgeon). Most of this work consists of fire hardening, pole replacements and reconductors. Bids put out for future work are being awarded to contractors that have not been in the area prior (Wilson). Along with the work that NVE has, Liberty Utilities has also kept OSL busy with many projects. Most of the work on Liberty property is going to Wasatch.

## Informational Meetings

On the second Tuesday in September, we held an Outside Line informational meeting in Fresno. We booked a room at Round Table Pizza that would hold 50 people. To our surprise, we had over 60 members in attendance. The room was too small, and we had members sitting in the main dining area trying to listen to the information being discussed. Our next meeting will be held at the local bowling alley which has a larger meeting room. Ben Contreras and Ralph Kenyon were greatly encouraged by the proud union members that attended the informational meeting. We will continue to have meetings every other month as long as the interest is there.

## New Contracts

The new OSL contracts have finally been printed and are available for distribution. If you are in need of one, you can pick one up at the union hall or reach out to your Business Representative.

## Accidents / Focus Items

We are still having large truck rollovers at the rate of around one a month. Most, if not all, of the rollovers had some type of down grade (hill) that played a role in these accidents. We have been extremely lucky that no one has been seriously injured. If we are unable to stop this, it's only a matter of time before someone doesn't make it home. We all need to use and share our experience with our co-workers to eliminate these situations. Things you should know about your vehicle: What

kind of trailer brake does the trailer you're towing have? Have you adjusted your trailer brake before your trip? Does your truck have an exhaust brake? If so, do you know how to use it or where it is? Does the automatic transmission in the truck automatically upshift on a down grade? Knowing the answers to these questions can make all the difference.

- We recently had two induction accidents in our jurisdiction (one was OSL and the other was utility) which both could have resulted in fatalities. We would like to report that the member involved in the OSL the accident is back to work. After the induction shock, the crew jumped into action to rescue the member off the tower and got her much needed medical treatment. It's everyone's opinion that this member is alive because her crew held good tailboards that included an emergency action plan daily. We always learn things after accidents and PG&E is currently reviewing the grounding manual for transmission work.

- With the outlook of more and more undergrounding over the next generation, we need to be focusing on proper shoring/sloping, monitoring of air conditions, and keeping aware of moving equipment. Crews that are working on OH and UG projects should take an extra minute to ensure they are following all safety procedures.

- With the holidays around the corner, keeping the task at hand as a priority can become a challenge. Work to identify and correct those check-out moments, whether it's a fellow member or yourself.

- A recent event that occurred in our jurisdiction involved a transformer falling from a pole, due to improper rigging. This is a major black eye to our work group. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured

- Days are getting much shorter. Daylight-savings time change also means a change in times that car crashes (fatal and non-fatal) occur. During the summer months, most fatal crashes occur after 8 p.m. During the fall, that changes. Fatal and non-fatal crashes move into the 4-8 p.m. time slot. With this time being the most frequent that work is

wrapping up, take a moment to review the risks of the road.

## Community Outreach

We have been getting more involved in community outreach events (school career days, climbing school visits, Labor-festivals). If you have any events that would benefit from discussion opportunities within the IBEW, please reach out.

## Dispatch

As of July 5, IBEW 1245 office hours have been changed to 7am to 4pm and the last application will go out at 3:30pm. The dispatchers are back to the dispatch office now that the remodel project is near completion. The new dispatch lobby will aid in faster signing and processing of paperwork. A few items will be completed over the next couple of months. We will be adding monitors to show open calls and a kiosk to fill out applications.

Currently, when arriving at the union hall, you will fill out a half sheet of paper that includes your name, email address and phone number. Please write clearly, as that is the only way to get your application to you. If your information is incorrect, it will delay your re-signing. When uploading your documents, please make sure you are sending us the most current and valid information. Please do not re-enter Dispatch until you receive an email to do so. If you have any questions, please call our main office number 707-452-2700.

## LaborPower Mobile App

IBEW Local 1245 has a Labor Power app which will allow members to check their position on the books, update contact info, pay dues, etc. You can find it in the app store of your mobile device.

## Red Books / Contracts / Safety

The Red Book Subcommittee met in September on the direction of the Joint IBEW / NECA full Committee to review and make suggestions for changes stemming from recent recommendations. Most of the suggestions were addressed and the subcommittee will be presenting to the full committee soon for concurrence. There were a couple of issues that will require a bigger discussion with all the major utilities, namely around grounding of the covered tree wire, as there are differences of opinions from



IBEW 1245 members Journeyman Lineman Tyler Dawson (left) and Mark Thrall from Pinnacle Power Services

Photo by John Storey



utility to utility on how this needs be performed to make sure it's in compliance with the OSHA standards. More to come.

### Examining Committee

The Local 1245 examining committee continues to be extremely busy dealing with issues related to safety or other wrong-doings by workers in the local's jurisdiction. This is not a good trend and we as a membership must do better. Let this be a reminder that, when dispatched, all members were provided a copy of the dispatch policies which state that if a member is discharged due to any safety violation, they will be placed on a dispatch hold until they meet with this examining committee which will determine follow up actions if needed. The committee meets the third Tuesday of each month and will meet every month as long as we continue to deal with these issues.

Safety and quality are the two things that everyone needs to stay focused on. There is no room in this industry to work unsafe or perform substandard work that can potentially lead to a safety issue.

### Cal Nev JATC

During the April apprentice application period, more than 1,400 applications were completed and moved to the next step of interviews. Since May of this year, we have been conducting approximately 140 interviews per month, and

will continue until all qualified applicants are interviewed (as long as there are not a lot of "Cold Apprentices" out of work). Once they are completed, the trustees will gauge the work picture and determine when to open the application period up again. Anyone who is thinking about becoming a line apprentice should monitor the Cal Nev JATC website for future announcements.

#### Current apprentices report as of Oct. 4, 2022

- 724 outside line apprentices registered in our JATC program.
- 19 traveling apprentices in Cal Nev's jurisdiction.
- 227 Apprentices are working out of local 1245.
- 367 are working out of 47, 23 working out of 396.
- 61 are unemployed, 26 are not available to work for various reasons and 9 are on a leave.
- 129 apprentices graduated to Journeyman Lineman in 2022 so far.
- 203 new apprentices indentured as outside line apprentices in 2022.

Apprentice privileges continue to be suspended to journeymen who are involved in unsafe work practices while having an apprentice on their crew. These suspensions are shared across the country to every JATC, as well as every

Outside Line local, and won't be lifted until the Journeymen involved in the incident meet with the trustees of the JATC where the incident occurred. This effects the journeymen's ability to work, as there are few jobs out there that don't have apprentices. As a Journeyman Lineman, it is your responsibility to train and mentor apprentices for the future of this trade and make sure they are being taught correctly, with safety in the forefront. Keep this in mind when you have an apprentice working with you.

### Competent Person Training

To address and make sure we have the workforce ready to tackle the large amount of undergrounding planned, the JATC will be holding Competent Persons Training classes. The plan is to hold these classes monthly for the next several months to make sure everyone who wants it has the opportunity to take it and receive the certification. We will schedule additional classes when there are enough interested individuals. Once everyone has had an opportunity to take the class and receive the training, this could become a special skill for this type of work. The classes will be held during the week, roughly eight hours long, and put on by United Rental.

If you are interested and want to sign up for this class, visit [www.calnevjatc.org](http://www.calnevjatc.org). Click on the Web Services tab, then Class Schedule. If you do not already

have an account with the JATC, you will need to create one. Class availability is based on first-come first-serve basis.

### Injured Workers Fund

The balance of the Fund as of August 31, 2022, was \$1,219,448.234. In the three months past the Fund has paid out 53 claims. The Summary Plan Description (SPD) and Application can be found on the union's website <https://ibew1245.com/outside-line-injured-workers-fund/>

### Organizing

In the three months past, the following Contractors were organized into Local 1245:

- **CA Outside Line Construction**  
Foundation Power Inc.  
Liberty Electric Line Builders LLC  
Owens Maurer Construction Inc.  
Rising Edge Technologies (California) LLC
- **Street Light and Traffic Signal Agreement**  
Yunex LLC
- **Construction Coordinator Agreement**  
Pro Energy Services Group LLC
- **Gas Inspector**  
Corrosion Service Company Limited  
Keystone Energy Group LLC

### Trees, from page 24

injuries and fatalities (SIFs). By far the most incidents we see out there are motor vehicles incidents (MVIs), including an alarming number of vehicle roll-overs. In our industry, our members travel through so many different types of terrain and weather conditions.

Now that the LCTT contract has been finalized, we can focus on the future. Many of the members were happy with the increase and were pleased with the new verbiage change. We had a great return with ballots this time around; the goal for the next contract is to reach 100% return on ballots.

There has been a lot of movement in the Central East, it seems that the contract for our contractors keeps changing and no one can get any momentum in their specific areas. This has been felt both with the tree and VMI groups. The VMIs have a difficult job of trying to judge the rate of what the trees would grow without knowing what the future would hold. These judgment calls our members must make is a difficult one, with so many factors that play a role on their ability to judge correctly; they must make tough decisions every day.

Our Reno Nevada members with Asplundh re-established an official unit and can now conduct official union business in Reno. The Asplundh group unit meeting has had a strong attendance these past months, and these members are eager for what the future holds. We appointed member Daniel Reyes to the KTC peer safety committee.

Utility Reporter

Reyes has been in the industry for 14 years, has helped organized this Reno group to attend meetings, and is highly involved, along with Asplundh Shop Steward Austin Sublett.

Assistant Business Manager Mark MauMau has attended our Central East unit meetings and has shared his passion for a better tomorrow.

### Central West Area

The new LCTT wage increases went into effect on June 1, 2022. Most of the contractors in the central west have paid the retro, however anyone having problem should contact their General Foreman to address the issue directly with their payroll department.

We had several periods of layoffs in LCTT due to lack of work in North Bay, East Bay, South, Bay, and Sacramento Valley. All contractors have been trying to maintain their work forces, however PG&E has not been able to issue enough work to retain all the crews in the system.

The Vegetation Management Inspectors (VMIs) have also been impacted, as there have been lay-offs on the VMI side as well. The North Bay was impacted with the elimination of VMIs for the EVM work group. Davey Resource Group (DRG) did offer some of our members work out of state, however we believe there wasn't much interest. The Bay Area has seen an uptick in investigations & disciplinary infractions with VMIs at ACRT, and we continue to address these issues as they come our way.

PG&E has been implementing stand-

downs throughout the entire system for unsafe work practices and incidents. We all need everyone to focus on what's taking place in the field, and anything that appears to be unsafe or not permitted must be called out by the crew. This is a critical time for everyone on PG&E property, as we are having too many incidents throughout the entire system.

SIF investigations have really ramped up on PG&E property. The union has been involved in these investigations along with PG&E and the contractor. These investigations usually run for 30-days from the date of the incident, with a goal to have a report with all the findings demonstrating the facts in the case. SIFs related to driving incidents, fatalities, and property damage have taken a good amount of our time this quarter. Distracted driving is one that came to light this month in the Central Coast, and we need to make certain we're focused on the road ahead. All it takes is just one moment for something bad to happen.

As of this writing, we are waiting on PG&E to announce the new contract awards for all areas in LCTT. We did receive information that three contractors assumed the Vegetation Control — VC contract system-wide. Arborworks was awarded the majority, with Mountain F. Enterprise and Wright Tree Service of the West picking up the rest.

Grievance activity has remained steady with several resolved; the rest are scheduled for Grievance Review Committee (GRC).

### Southern Area

There are a few contractors in this area that did not sign on to the new agreement, we are still talking to them. The new wages were implemented, but I am still getting calls from some employees that were not paid the retro.

I have received many calls from VMI members and the contractors about PG&E cutbacks and some positions being eliminated. I have had at least seven labor-management meetings with four of the VMI companies (ACRT, DRG, Oricon and Arbor Metrics) on various issues related to terminations and disciplinary actions. The LCTT contractors are also being affected by PG&E not releasing the EVM, CEMA and Reliability work and putting it all out to bid asking for lower prices each time they submit. Davey laid off 60 people in Central Coast, Mario's laid off about 20 employees in Fresno and Bakersfield divisions. Arborworks also laid off about 20 groundmen and apprentice climbers and right now, no one is hiring new employees on the tree side.

Davey Tree lost all the VC work; it was awarded to three contractors. Arborworks received the Bay area and Central Coast and Central Valley divisions, Wright Tree received the North Coast division and MFG received North Valley. We have been helping the new contractors hire the Davey employees who became unemployed in my division. So far, they have hired over forty members who are very thankful for the union's support on this matter.



# “COMPLACENCY KILLS”

## IBEW 1245 ‘Hold the Pull’ Summit Prepares Stewards to Stand Up for Safety

More than one hundred IBEW 1245 safety stewards from 15 different properties across California and Nevada, along with members of the 1245 Executive Board and staff, gathered for the annual “Hold the Pull” Safety Summit in Vacaville, California to renew their commitment to the peer-to-peer safety program that has become a national model.

IBEW 1245 Business Rep Fred Aboud, the coordinator of the peer-to-peer program, declared, “These peer programs exist so that everyone can go home to their families at the end of the day. And for the first time, members from Outside Line are joining us — a big deal!”

Launched in 2009, Hold the Pull was established in response to a rash of safety incidents, near-misses and fatalities among linemen. Drawing from effective safety programs pioneered by pilots, IBEW 1245 established the lineman-to-lineman safety program to build a safety initiative from the ground up. The Hold the Pull Safety Committee grew, as members recruited safety stewards from across our territory.

Following on the success of Hold the Pull, IBEW 1245 established two more peer-to-peer safety Control the Pressure (gas) and Keep the Clearance (line clearance tree trimming). In 2022, a fourth peer-to-peer committee, Regulate the Voltage, for workers in substation, generation, control operations, was established, and an Outside Line Roundtable recently launched as well. Today, more than 280 safety stewards participate in IBEW 1245’s peer-to-peer safety program.

IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean addressed the group, sharing, “Since I came on staff, two men have died every year I’ve worked here. That’s 34 men who have died... 34 families that were changed forever. The preponderance of those men have been tree trimmers and linemen, and more recently, gas.”

“The vast majority of workplace tragedies happen when someone gets complacent,” Dean went on. “We need an army of folks willing to tell the truth... We need to have hard-ass conversations when we know people are crossing the line, putting themselves and others at risk.”

Carlos Mendez, a former Navy Seal with 22 years of service, headlined the day with a powerful presentation on leadership, team building, and building ownership for safety at every level.

Drawing parallels between the highly skilled work of the Navy Seals in combat situations with the highly skilled work of power linemen in everyday situations, Mendez shared stories illustrating the importance of “proactively building relationships with people before something goes wrong.” He emphasized the value of “decentralized command,” and the importance of communicating the “what” and “why” of certain decisions or procedures and inviting the team to come up with the “how.” Debriefing every job is a crucial way of drawing lessons and best practices.

Mendez invited the group to see themselves as leaders, underscoring the importance of humility and of checking one’s ego at the door.

“Discipline, standard operating procedures save lives... Complacency in your work kills,” he emphasized.

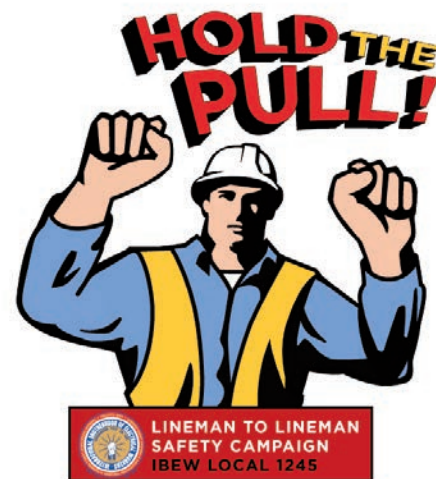
He closed his presentation, thanking the membership for their work and was greeted by a standing ovation.

In breakout sessions and open discussion, stewards culled the lessons learned and brainstormed ways to apply the take-aways in the field with their co-workers and crews. They recognized the challenges, including inadequate staffing across the industry and the failure of management to hold new apprentices to higher standards. They acknowledged they must find ways to communicate with the new generation of linemen, to mentor and build the brotherhood.

Bottom line: the safety stewards agreed that we all must take ownership, exercise leadership and safeguard the craft as we move forward to guarantee safety for all.

— Eileen Purcell,  
IBEW 1245 Senior Advisor

**If you are interested in becoming a safety steward, contact Business Representative Fred Aboud at [MFA1@ibew1245.com](mailto:MFA1@ibew1245.com) or 775-857-9750**



Speaker Carlos Mendez with Echelon Front



Business Manager Bob Dean



Business Rep Fred Aboud



The 2022 ‘Hold the Pull’ Safety Summit in Vacaville, CA



Hold the Pull Safety Committee member Mike Van Egmond served as the Master of Ceremonies and led the group in a minute of silence for the brothers who have died at work.



A breakout session



## Árboles, from page 25

activo y se ha extendido a más de 60,000 acres. Los días calurosos y los vientos fuertes siguieron alimentando este devastador incendio. Nuestros miembros están ayudando a las cuadrillas allí, haciendo todo lo posible para ayudar a su comunidad. Recordemos rezar una oración por todas las familias afectadas por esto.

Últimamente, ha habido muchos incidentes en el campo con nuestros grupos VMI y podadores de árboles. Siguen ocurriendo lesiones y fatalidades graves (SIF). La mayoría de los incidentes son de vehículos de motor (MVI), incluido un número alarmante de vehículos volcados. En nuestra industria, nuestros miembros viajan por diferentes tipos de terreno y condiciones climáticas.

Ahora que el contrato LCTT ha sido finalizado, podemos centrarnos en el futuro. Muchos de los miembros estaban contentos con el aumento y satisfechos con las modificaciones al texto. Esta vez recibimos muchas papeletas de votación; el objetivo para el próximo contrato es recibir 100% de las papeletas.

Ha habido mucho movimiento en la zona Centra Este, parece que los contratos de nuestros contratistas siguen cambiando y nadie puede lograr ningún impulso en sus zonas específicas. Esto se ha sentido tanto con en los grupos de VMI como en los de podadores de árboles. Los VM tienen una tarea difícil de tratar de determinar la tasa de crecimiento de los árboles sin saber lo que el futuro depara. Estas decisiones que nuestros miembros deben tomar son difíciles, pues hay muchos factores que influyen para tomar la decisión correcta; deben tomar decisiones difíciles todos los días.

Nuestros miembros de Reno Nevada con Asplundh fueron restablecidos

como una unidad oficial y ahora pueden manejar temas sindicales oficialmente en Reno. La reunión de la unidad del grupo de Asplundh ha tenido una robusta asistencia estos últimos meses, y estos miembros están ansiosos por saber qué les depara el futuro. Hemos nombrado al miembro Daniel Reyes para formar parte del comité de KTC. Daniel ha estado en la industria por 14 años, ha ayudado a organizar este grupo de Reno para que asistan a las reuniones, y está muy involucrado, junto con Austin Sublett, Delegado sindical de Asplundh.

Mark MauMau, Gerente Asistente de Negocios ha asistido a nuestras reuniones de la zona Central Este y ha compartido su pasión por un mañana mejor.

## Zona Central Oeste

Los nuevos aumentos salariales de LCTT entraron en vigor el 1o de junio de 2022. La mayoría de los contratistas en la zona central oeste han hecho los pagos retroactivos, sin embargo cualquier persona que tenga un problema debe ponerse en contacto con su Capataz General para abordar el problema directamente con su departamento de nómina.

Tuvimos varios períodos de despidos en LCTT debido a la falta de trabajo en North Bay, East Bay, South Bay y Sacramento Valley. Todos los contratistas han estado intentando mantener sus fuerzas laborales, sin embargo PG&E no ha podido emitir suficiente trabajo para retener a todas las cuadrillas en el sistema.

Los Inspectores de Manejo de Vegetación (VMI) también han sido impactados, ya que también han habido despidos por el lado de los VMI. North Bay se vio afectada con la eliminación de los VMI para el grupo de trabajo de EVM. Davey Resource Group (DRG)

ofreció a algunos de nuestros miembros trabajar fuera del estado, sin embargo creemos que no hubo mucho interés. Bay Area ha experimentado un repunte en las investigaciones e infracciones disciplinarias con los VMI en ACRT, y continuamos abordando estos problemas a medida que llegan.

PG&E ha estado pausando el trabajo a lo largo de todo el sistema por incidentes y prácticas de trabajo inseguras. Necesitamos que todos se centren en lo que está ocurriendo en el terreno, y la cuadrilla debe informar cualquier asunto que parezca inseguro o no esté permitido. Este es un periodo crítico para todos en las instalaciones de PG&E, ya que están ocurriendo demasiados incidentes en todo el sistema.

Las investigaciones de SIF han aumentado notablemente en las instalaciones de PG&E. El sindicato ha participado en estas investigaciones junto con PG&E y el contratista. Estas investigaciones generalmente duran 30 días a partir de la fecha del incidente, con el objetivo de tener un informe con todos los hallazgos que demuestren los hechos del caso. Los SIF relacionados con incidentes al conducir, fatalidades y daños a la propiedad han ocupado una buena parte de nuestro tiempo este trimestre. Estar distraído al conducir fue algo que salió a la luz este mes en Central Coast, y tenemos que asegurarnos de que estamos centrados en el camino que tenemos por delante. Basta un solo momento para que suceda algo malo.

Al momento de escribir este informe, estamos esperando que PG&E anuncie los nuevos contratos adjudicados para todas las zonas de LCTT. Recibimos información de que tres contratistas asumieron el contrato de Control de Vegetación - VC en todo el sistema. Arborworks obtuvo la mayoría, y Mountain F. Enterprise y Wright Tree Service



Photo by John Storey

of the West obtuvieron el resto.

La actividad de quejas ha permanecido estable y hemos resuelto varias; el resto están programadas para presentarlas el Comité de Revisión de Quejas (GRC).

## Zona Sur

Hay algunos contratistas en esta zona que no firmaron el nuevo acuerdo, todavía estamos hablando con ellos. Se aplicaron los nuevos salarios, pero sigo recibiendo llamadas de algunos empleados que no han recibido el pago retroactivo.

He recibido muchas llamadas de los miembros de VMI y de los contratistas sobre recortes de PG&E y algunas posiciones que han sido eliminadas. He tenido por lo menos siete reuniones del sindicato-gerencia con cuatro de las compañías de VMI (ACRT, DRG, Oricon y Arbor Metrics) sobre varios asuntos relacionados con despidos y acciones disciplinarias. Los contratistas de LCTT también están siendo afectados porque PG&E no ha emitido trabajos de EVM, CEMA y trabajos de Confiabilidad, y saca todo a licitación para buscar precios más bajos cada vez que se presentan ofertas. Davey despidió a 60 personas en Central Coast, Mario's despidió a unos 20 empleados en las divisiones de Fresno y Bakersfield. Arborworks también despidió a unos 20 operadores de tierra y aprendices de escaladores, y en este momento nadie está contratando nuevos empleados para la poda de árboles.

Davey Tree perdió todo el trabajo de VC; el trabajo le fue otorgado a tres contratistas. Arborworks recibió Bay Area y las divisiones de Central Coast y Central Valley, Wright Tree recibió la división de la Costa Norte y MFG recibió North Valley. Hemos estado ayudando a los nuevos contratistas a contratar a los empleados de Davey que quedaron desempleados en mi división. Hasta ahora, han contratado a más de cuarenta miembros que están muy agradecidos por el apoyo del sindicato en este asunto.

Estamos teniendo demasiados accidentes de vehículos que incluyen vuelcos, infracciones de velocidad y personas que no prestan atención mientras conducen. Esta es una de las actividades más peligrosas que realizamos cada día cuando nos ponemos al volante. Predico todos los días la importancia de estar seguros y atentos mientras conducen.

## Safety Committee Reports: Fall, 2022

- The Hold the Pull peer safety committee continues to grow, reaching almost 100 total safety stewards. The committee has had continuous involvement at the Livermore Training Facility, giving safety pitches to the new apprentice classes at PG&E, along with the apprentice training at Livermore. HTP has also been put on the agenda for troubleman training classes that are held at Livermore as well, and the committee recently was involved with safety pitches for G.C. Electric in Windsor and Yuba City safety summits. The committee also welcomed its first Outside Line Construction Advisory Committee member to the group, a big step forward with the committee's effort to get OSL involved in the HTP peer group. HTP had a great showing at their annual HTP safety summit in August with over 100 in attendance.
- The Control the Pressure peer safety group has been continuing to build their program as well, and are almost at 100 safety stewards. The group continues to do safety pitches at the Winters training facility for all new gas members and has been involved in numerous field service safety summits. CTP has done approximately 15 safety pitches, along with a recent pitch in the San Jose yard.
- The Keep the Clearance peer safety committee is enthusiastic about its new safety video. The group has lost a few safety stewards due to lack of communication. This group sits at approximately 50 total safety stewards.
- The new Regulate the Voltage peer safety committee has been working on a logo for the new group, and communication amongst this group is strong and moving forward. All of the advisory committee members of this group attended the annual HTP safety summit in August so they could see how a safety summit should be held. Hopefully next year, this group will be ready to have their own safety summit.
- The IBEW 1245 Health and Safety committee continues to meet once a month. The date has been changed to the first Tuesday of every month. Dan Boschee was recently appointed the chairman, and Mike Gomes has been appointed the recorder.





# 2023 IBEW LOCAL 1245 SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST RULES

Details about these scholarships and eligibility can be found at [www.ibew1245.com/scholarships](http://www.ibew1245.com/scholarships)

The purpose of this contest is to provide scholarship aid for colleges, community colleges and trade schools, thereby providing financial assistance toward the attainment of a higher education.

**Eligibility for all applicants for all scholarships**  
Applicant must be the child, grandchild or spouse of an IBEW 1245 member or retiree club member who is current and in good standing. **The Veterans scholarship is for IBEW Local 1245 members who are veterans.**

Applicant will be required to submit the completed scholarship application, two letters of recommendation from a non-relative instructor, principal, counselor or supervisor, and an essay, **not to exceed 500-words**, on the subject designated by the Executive Board. Essays must be submitted on 8 1/2" x 11" paper, on one side, preferably typed and doubled spaced, with applicant's written signature at the conclusion of the essay, **and the essay topic at the beginning** of the essay.

**Completed application packets must be mailed to IBEW Local Union 1245, Attn: 2022 Scholarship, P.O. Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696, and be postmarked no later than the first Monday in March.**

The scholarship will be made only to that candidate who intends to enroll full-time in an institution that is certified by their State Department of Education and accredited by the Local Accrediting Association.

**Payment(s) will be paid directly to the college upon presentation of proof of enrollment and tuition costs**

to IBEW Local Union 1245, Attn: 2023 Scholarship Committee TA, PO Box 2547,Vacaville, CA 95696, or [tfa3@ibew1245.com](mailto:tfa3@ibew1245.com).

**Responsibility of Scholarship Recipient: Scholarship winner must begin their studies in their next term or, at the very latest, in January of the following year.**

Scholarship applications may be obtained from the 4th Quarter issue of the *Utility Reporter* or downloaded from the Local 1245 website: [www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com).

Scholarship winners and their families will be invited to a 2023 Advisory Council meeting, at IBEW LU 1245's expense, to read their essays and have lunch with the Executive Board, Advisory Council and Local Union Leadership. Scholarship recipients will be presented with a suitable certificate or plaque to commemorate their win.

**\*Scholarships winners are not eligible to apply for additional scholarships.\***

Scholarships will be awarded as follows:

☐ **Roger Stalcup Community College Scholarship (2): Eligibility:** See **Eligibility for all applicants for all scholarships.**

**Award:** Two winners will be selected to receive **up to \$1,500.00**, for up to **two semesters**, which must be used for Community College tuition and course materials.

☐ **IBEW 1245 Survivor's Scholarship (1): Eligibility:** Applicant must be the surviving child, grandchild or spouse of an IBEW 1245 member or retiree club member who was current and in good standing at the time of their death.

**Award:** One winner will be selected to receive a one-time scholarship, of **up to \$5,000.00**, which must be used for trade school, community college or university tuition. The payment will be made directly to the school after LU 1245 Scholarship Committee receives proof of enrollment and cost of tuition. Enrollment letter must include student ID number.

☐ **IBEW 1245 Veteran's Scholarship (1): Eligibility:** Applicant must be an IBEW 1245 member or retiree club member in good standing **AND** an honorably discharged veteran of a branch of the United States Armed Forces or Reserves. Applicants must also provide a copy of their DD214 documentation.

**Award:** One winner will be selected for a one-time scholarship, **up to \$5,000.00**, which must be used for trade school, community college or university tuition. **The payment will be made directly to the school after the LU 1245 Scholarship Committee receives proof of enrollment and cost of tuition. Enrollment letter must include student ID number.**

continued on next page

Mail to: IBEW LOCAL UNION 1245, Attn: 2023 Scholarship Committee (TA), P.O. Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696

**Ronald T Weakley (2):**

- ☐ (a) **Electrical Line Worker Scholarship**  
☐ (b) **Vocational Trade School Scholarship**

- ☐ **Roger Stalcup Community College Scholarship (2)**  
☐ **Survivor's Scholarship (1)**  
☐ **Veteran's Scholarship (1)**

I hereby make application to enter the \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship contest sponsored by Local Union 1245, I.B.E.W., AFL-CIO.  
**\*\* SELECT ONE (1) SCHOLARSHIP \*\***

## Applicant's Personal Information

Name: Last, First Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer and work location: \_\_\_\_\_

High School I graduated or will graduate from: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Located in: \_\_\_\_\_ with a GPA of: (n/a for Veteran's Scholarship)

College or Trade School I expect to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Located in: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that the above named candidate is currently enrolled as a student at **(High School Name):** \_\_\_\_\_

and has or will be graduating **(High School Name)** in 2023: **(List Month and Year)** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Official's signature and position** \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that I am a member in good standing of Local Union 1245, I.B.E.W. and the Candidate whose name is signed to this application is my \_\_\_\_\_ (relationship to member) and has or will graduate during the term ending \_\_\_\_\_ 2023.

**(Parent's Signature and Card No.)** \_\_\_\_\_

## Veteran's Information (for members applying for this scholarship):

List information about your service in the US Armed Forces, including branch, dates of service, deployment locations. Attach a copy of your DD214.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Were you honorably discharged? \_\_\_\_\_

## College and Career Information

Name and location of college you have or will have attended for at least one year as of **December 2023**. If more than one, list the college most recently attended:

Attendance dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Major/Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

**Test Scores: SAT:      ACT:      GRE:      LSAT:      MCAT:**

If you will be entering Graduate School in 2023, please provide additional information about your college degrees, certifications and work experience (as applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your anticipated graduation date? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly outline your career goals while addressing the following: Explain why you want to pursue a college education. How will this education contribute towards your immediate and/or long-term career plans?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**List Employment and extracurricular activities (internships, sports, clubs)**

Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

**List community service activity and awards**

Community Service \_\_\_\_\_

Community Service \_\_\_\_\_

Awards \_\_\_\_\_

Awards \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial need:** Anticipated amount of funding needed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total household income: \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of people in household: \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you learn about the IBEW Local 1245 Scholarships?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Did you remember to:

- ☐ Complete the application?  
☐ Obtain all signatures?  
☐ Attach your essay?  
☐ Attach two non-relative letters of reference?  
☐ Attach your DD214? (LU 1245 veteran scholarship applicants only)



- ☐ **Ronald T. Weakley IBEW 1245 Scholarships (2):**

☐ **Electrical Line Worker Scholarship:**

**Eligibility:** See **Eligibility for all applicants for all scholarships**

**Award:** One winner will be selected to receive a scholarship **up to a total of \$10,000.00**. The recipient will initially receive up to \$2,500.00 to be used for tuition for an approved electrical line worker program (i.e. VOLTA). Following verification of completion of the program **AND 1,000 hours worked in the electrical line trade in IBEW 1245's jurisdiction** AND verification of attendance at ten (10)

- IBEW 1245 unit meetings within an 18-month period, the recipient will receive **up to \$7,500.00** toward reimbursement of tuition and required materials. The payment will be made directly to the school after the LU 1245 Scholarship Committee receives proof of enrollment and cost of tuition.
- ☐ **Vocational Trade School Scholarship:**

**Eligibility:** See **Eligibility for all applicants for all scholarships**

**Award:** One winner will be selected to receive a one-time scholarship up to \$1,000.00. Trade school certification must be a union-based occupation

within the scope of work IBEW 1245 members perform. The payment will be made directly to the school after the LU 1245 Scholarship Committee receives proof of enrollment and cost of tuition.

The essay topic for the 2023 Scholarships is:

**“The perception of unionism has changed significantly in the past few years. What is driving the change?”**

# AL SANDOVAL MEMORIAL COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

The purpose of this contest is to provide a grant in aid for scholarships to colleges and junior colleges, thereby making financial assistance toward the attainment of a higher education.

1. The scholarship will be as follows:  
Two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) per year, up to four (4) years, as long as a C (2.0) average is maintained, and the parent maintains their membership in good standing in Local Union 1245.
2. In order to be a candidate in this contest, you must be a son or daughter, natural, legally adopted or a legal ward of a member of Local Union 1245. You must also be a high school student who has graduated or is graduating in (the year of the contest). **A copy of your diploma or a letter from your high school stating that you will graduate in 2023 must be attached to your scholarship application.**
3. The Scholarship Grant will be made only to that candidate who intends to enroll full-time in any college certified by their State Department of Education and accredited by the Local Accrediting Association.  
  
**Responsibility of Scholarship Recipient:** Scholarship winner must begin their studies in their next term or, at the very latest, in January of the following year.
4. Applications may be downloaded from the IBEW Local 1245 website (see link below), or using the form printed in the *Utility Reporter*. ([www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com)).
5. Checks will be paid directly to the college upon receipt of the official transcript you're your college or university, confirming full-time student status and GPA. Email transcript to: [tfa3@ibew1245.com](mailto:tfa3@ibew1245.com).
6. All applications shall be accompanied with a written essay, **not to exceed five hundred (500) words**, on the subject designated by the Executive Board.
7. Essays should be submitted on 8 1/2" x 11" paper, on one side, preferably typed and doubled spaced with applicant's written signature at the conclusion of the essay.
8. **Applications and essays must be mailed to I.B.E.W., Local Union 1245, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 2547, Vacaville, California 95696, by REGISTERED CERTIFIED MAIL ONLY, and be postmarked no later than the first Monday in March of each year.**
9. Each year the scholarship shall be presented at the Advisory Council meeting in April; the Judge and a guest, and the recipient and their parents shall be invited, at Local Union expense, to present and receive the Scholarship Award.
10. A suitable trophy, plaque or certificate shall be purchased by the Local Union to be presented to the scholarship recipient.

The essay topic for the 2023 Scholarships is:

**“The perception of unionism has changed significantly in the past few years. What is driving the change?”**

APPLICATION FOR THE  
2022 AL SANDOVAL MEMORIAL COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by  
LOCAL UNION 1245  
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, AFL-CIO  
Mail to: IBEW Local 1245, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696 • Telephone: (707) 452-2718

I hereby make application to enter the Al Sandoval Competitive Scholarship Contest sponsored by Local Union 1245, I.B.E.W., AFL-CIO:

Name (Last) (First) (Initial) Date of Birth

Address (Street) (City) (State) (Zip) Tele # ( )

Name of Parent

Company

Work Location

I graduated or will graduate from High School

Which is located at

I expect to attend College or School

Location

Candidate's Signature Date

This is to certify that the above-named candidate is currently enrolled as a student at and has or will be graduating (School Name) in , 2023. (Month and year)

Official's signature and position

This is to certify that I am a member in good standing of Local Union 1245, I.B.E.W. and the Candidate whose name is signed to this application is my and has or will graduate during the term ending , 2023.





# SERVICE AWARDS

Monterey  
April 1, 2022



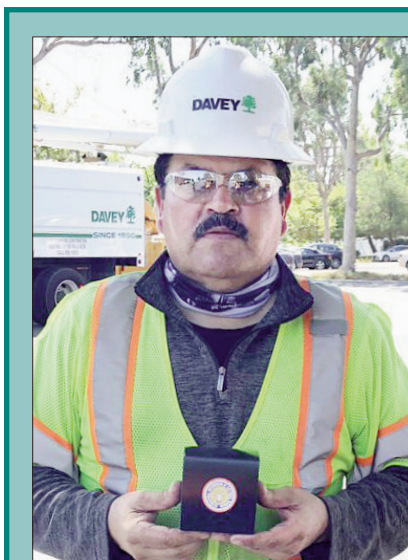
**25 Years** From left: Andres Garcia Jr. and Adrienne Bartlebaugh



**20 Years** From left: Normand Brunelle, Kathi Diccio-Howard and (Balistreri)



**15 Years** From left: Justin Martinez with (Adayan)



## 25 Years

IBEW 1245 member Gil Barron received his 25-year service award on the jobsite in Palo Alto, CA. Barron works as a foreman for Davey Tree Surgery Company.

*Congratulations on your service!*



## 45 Years

From left: Assistant Business Manager Mike Adayan, Ruben Romero, Benjamin Luna and Assistant Business Manager Roberto Balistreri

Photos by John Storey



**40 Years** From left: Amante Buentipo, (Adayan) and Dawn Gandolfi



**30 Years** From left: Michael Britt with Business Representative Jaime Tinoco

*Congratulations on your service!*



**10 Years** From left: Daniel Kenney, (Adayan) and Gonzalo Ramirez



**5 Years** From left: Charles Jones II with (Balistreri)

# HONOREES

## 45 years

Capwell, David  
Gandolfi, Dawn  
Koviyak, Michael  
Luna, Benjamin  
Romero, Ruben

## 35 years

Noriega, Jerry  
Ritchie, Timothy

## 30 years

Bartlebaugh, Adrienne  
Britt, Michael  
Llamas, Alfredo  
Pena, Janie  
Sandoval, Maira

## 25 years

Briebesca, Juan  
Carpenter, Michael  
Cori, Mark  
Donnelly, James Jr.  
Evans, Stuart  
Rocha, Eduardo  
Welsh, Mark  
Winterhalder, Patricia

## 20 years

Branco, Corey  
Brunelle, Normand  
Celie, Johnny  
Chavez, Thomas  
Danieli, Richard  
Dicco-Skenes, Kathi  
Estrada, Manuel  
Martinez, Joel

Robertson, Alfred  
Rush, Nathan  
Shiels, Todd

## 15 years

Angulo, Luis  
Bowles, Mitchell  
Bozzi, Fabio  
Collins, Shane  
Contreras, Ernest Jr.  
Cortes, Homero  
Cortez, Jose  
Davis, Kevin  
Garcia, Luis  
Gonzalez, Arnulfo  
Ibarra, Alberto  
Kuna, William  
Mayfield, Eric  
Moore, Kimberley

Olvera, Christopher  
Ortiz, Jose  
Rinehart, Alexander  
Rodriguez, Rudy  
Romero, Christopher  
Ross, Christopher  
Schultz, Harold  
Silva, Danny  
Sosa, Jose  
Tull, Sean  
Ullmer, Jan  
Valverde, James  
Vera, Juan  
Wyatt, Ty

## 10 years

Blomquist, Dennis  
Corotto, Chris  
Crump, Logan  
Graves, Robert Aaron  
Hasen, Alannah  
Kenney, Daniel  
Moon, Michael

Raine, Justin  
Ramirez, Gonzalo  
Slonski, Patrick  
Villalobos, Miguel

## 5 years

Aguirre, Josue  
Barajas, Rafael Jr.  
Barry, Charles Jr.  
Bernal Rios, Jorge  
Campuzano, Eva  
Canela, Mario  
Diaz, Yvonne  
Dillon, Michael  
Dowdy, Jason  
Drost, Randy  
Ellis, Matthew  
Espiritu, Santino-  
Cristiand  
Fernandez, Nicholas  
Genderton, Edward  
Gil, Juvenal  
Gonzalez, Juan Jr.

Hall, Michael  
Hernandez, Melecio  
Herrera Mora,  
Rosendo  
Jeske, Dustin  
Jones, Charles II  
Lima, Eduardo  
Lopez, Jesus  
Martinez Canales Jr.  
Gustavo Miguel  
Martinez, Juan  
Okaneke, Javier  
Olvera, Juan  
Pena, Vincent  
Perry, Taylor  
Pulido, Samuel  
Ritter, Gerald  
Rivera, Manuel  
Silva, Daniel  
Spadoni, Robert  
Villalon, Daniel  
Williams, Rodney Jr.  
Zavala, Jose





# Bakersfield

April 8, 2022

*Congratulations  
on your service!*



## 45 Years

From left:  
Assistant Business  
Manager Mike  
Adayan, Business  
Rep Mark Rolow  
and Assistant  
Business Manager  
Roberto Balistreri

Photos by  
John Storey



## 25 Years

From left:  
Cynthia  
Choate and  
Randall Patt



## 20 Years

From left: John  
Prince, Alycia  
Brown and Arturo  
Flores



**15 Years** Front row, from left: Ruben Martinez, Sascha Thomas and Jesse Morelos. Back row, from left: Gavin Salcido and Michael Lodien



**10 Years** Front row, from left: Casey Champlin, Bobby Wandick, Shay Barker. Back row, from left: Carson McAtee and Thomas Olson

HONOREES			
45 years	Durrant, Rendell	Exzabe, Philimino Jr.	Daniel Echeveste, Bernardo
Rolow, Mark	Flores, Arturo	Garis, Jerry	Escalante, Abel
Stoeppler, Andrew	Hays, Michael	Gutierrez, Jorge	Escalante, Paul
35 years	Jones, John	Halkola, Kurts	Fausett, Blake
Harwood, Ray	Martinez, Andrew	Harris, Chrystal	Fermin-Fuentes, Brandon
Neufeld, Dan	Martinez, Dagoberto	Jenkins, Ryan	Gomez, Anthony
Petropoulos, Cindy	McCoy, Matthew	Jones, Terry	Jerigan, Justin
30 years	Murphy, Brian	McMahon, Levi	Klawitter, Ernest
Gee, Steve	Neudorfer, Todd	Miller, Tim	Labaugh, Jake
Guerra, Elisa	Patty, Ronald	Reed, Mindy	Lauer, Ryan
Kraucyk, James	Pinales, Xavier	Sims, Mike	Lopez, Bulmaro
Lopez, Antonio	Prince, John	Tate, Cheryl	Martinez Ramirez, Jose
Marchini, Thomas	Rexach, Joel	Tucker, Jonathan	Oden, Chase
Patt, Randall	Rogers, Donald II	Van Rynsoever, Michael	Ortiz, JC
Sisk, Jon	Shine, Ryan	Van Steenwyk, Teresa	Patrick, Brian
Valencia, Humberto	Thomas, Sascha	Wandick, Bobby	Perez, Orlando
20 years	Vargas, Raul	5 years	Rael, Antonio
Anderson, Robert	Walker, Nicholas	Aburto Diaz, Roberto	Rehbock, Craig
Barton, Eugene	Williams, Scott	Barajas, Ramiro	Robison, Shane
Bradford, Shane	10 years	Beasley, Erik	Rodriguez Ventura, Brandon
Cardwell, David	Barker, Shay	Bermudez, Jaime	Speight, Cory
	Champlin, Casey	Cazares, Jesus	Tejeda Enriquez, Jaime
	Devin, Skyler	Chavez, Rafael Jr.	Walker, Andrew
	Duran, Adan	Contreras-Fernandez,	Wofford, Tommie II
			Zuch, Miguel



**5 Years** Front row, from left: Jose Martinez-Ramirez, James Labaugh and Bernardo Echeveste. Back row, from left: Jake Labaugh and Shane Robison









# SERVICE AWARDS

## Reno

May 20, 2022



**30 Years** From left: Andrew Barber and Michael Gill



**25 Years** From left: Benjamin Shelton and Jason Surette



**20 Years** From left: Dorine Shaner and Business Rep Adam Weber

*Congratulations on your service!*



**10 Years**  
From left: Edward Hinkley and Haleigh Martin



**56 Years**  
From left: Business Rep Fred Aboud, Senior Assistant Business Manger Dylan Gottfried, the late Ron Borst and Senior Assistant Business Manager Ralph Armstrong

Photos by John Storey



**20 Years**  
Front row, from left: Edward Atkins, Kevin Claggett and Brian Gregory. Back row, from left: Ernesto Rivera and Richard Pickworth



**15 Years**  
Front row, from left: Toak Scarlett, Sunly Sa and David Diaz. Back row, from left: Justin Greenland, Stephen Potter, Kris Kaltenbacher, Daren Demangate and Charles Gazso



**5 Years**  
Front row, from left: Dillon Wobbe, Matthew Cross, and Trevor Johnson. Back row, from left: Gregory Howard, Angelica Martinez and Daniel Reyes



**5 Years** From left: Jeanette Lawson and Lee Anne Christensen

HONOREES		
45 years	30 years	20 years
Humphrey, Calvin	Barber, Andrew	Atkins, Edward
45 years	Burdick, Martin	Beasley, Jonathan
Humphrey, Calvin	Gill, Michael	Davis, Richard
40 years	Iannacchione, Carl	Dixon, Michael
Devore, Jeff	Stewart, Vincent	Enos, Steven
35 years	Venturino, Michael	Fabbi, Edmund
Brown, Rocky		
Collins, William		
Davies, Robert		
Lavelly, Kevin		

Fambrough, Robert Sr.	Clarkson, Matthew
Gregory, Brian	Demangate, Daren
Justus, Jesse	Denae, Naiz
Parker, Victor	Diaz, David
Peters, Zane	Dourte, Danial
Phillips, Richard	Evanson, Damen
Price, Alexander	Gazso, Charles
Reizenstein, Jamie	Greenland, Justin
Retterath, Kevin	Hall, Travis
Romeo, Zachary	Hardy, Bevan
Shaner, Dorine	Johnson, Kasey
Thompson, Ron	Kaltenbacher, Kris
Weber, Adam	Kieber, John
	Laplaca, Cody
	Lauritzen, Nathan
	Leone, Ross
	Matts, Sarah
	McNutt, Jason
	Meznarich, Charles

Murphy, Kyle
Nelson, Nicholas
Osborne, Josh
Parsons, Michael
Paulsen, Matthew
Pena-Flores, Liliana
Perry, Jimmy
Potter, Stephen
Pribyl, Peter
Rains, Nicholas
Rees, John
Romero, Herminio
Rosales, Victor
Sa, Sunly
Scarlett, Toak
Segale, Casey
Tavare, Nicholas
Woolever, Jeffrey

10 years
Baines, Mark
Blount, Bryce
Chavez, Casey
Cleven, John
Cowden, Monica
Eaton, Robert Jr.
Foster, David
Frizzell, Gregory
Hayes, Charlie
Hinkley, Edward
Jones, Lincoln
Keach, Andrew
Larive, Logan
Martin, Haleigh
McMillen, Richard
Mezger, Elliot

5 years
Avalos Espinoza, Jose
Basurto, Jorge
Brethauer, Todd
Call, Kevin
Cooley, Regina
Coots, Derek
Cross, Matthew
Galvez, Iggy
Gonzalez, Jesse
Graham, Jacob
Haslem, Tandy
Haumann, Jeremy
Hicks, Brian
Hicks, Michael
Hires, Russell
Hope, Nathan
Howard, Gregory

Johnson, Trevor
Kinnaman, Don
Lawson, Jeanette
Martinez, Angelica
Miller, Howard
Mojica, Gustavo
O'Brien, Logan
Owens, Leroy Jr.
Pilatti, Jonathan
Potratz, Chris
Reyes, Daniel
Rodriguez, Claudia
Rodriguez, Emmanuel
Sanchez, Anabel
Smith, Emery
Tolley, Michael
Tolman, Bret
Tonkin, Jakob
Vicondoa, David



## IN MEMORIAM

### Salvador Escamilla

**W**e are extremely saddened to report the sudden and tragic passing of Salvador (Sal) Escamilla, a 12-year member of IBEW 1245. Brother Escamilla was working for PG&E as a substation maintenance electrician out of San Francisco Martin Service Center, and was well-loved and respected by his co-workers.

Brother Escamilla is survived by his wife and five children, and his family could use our support during this difficult time.

Please contribute what you can and leave a message of condolence using <https://www.gofundme.com/f/xt634-unexpected-passing-of-a-loved-one>.



Salvador Escamilla



## IN MEMORIAM

### Jorge Soria

**I**t is with heavy heart that IBEW Local 1245 reports the passing of 17-year IBEW 1245 member Jorge Soria, who lost his life in a workplace accident on Aug 24 at the age of 47. Brother Soria, a skilled worker with many years of line clearance tree trimming experience, was working for Davey Tree Surgery in the Boulder Creek area, on a three-man crew performing Tree Mortality and Fire Risk Reduction activities as part of the Catastrophic Event Memorandum Account (CEMA) project, at the time of the accident.



Jorge Soria



Brother Soria leaves behind his wife, Alicia, four children, Crystal, Monica, George and Mareli, and two grandchildren, Adrian and Joel.

"IBEW Local 1245 mourns the tragic loss of Brother Jorge Soria, and we extend our deepest condolences to his family at home, as well as his extended family in the tree industry," said IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean.

"My dad dedicated his life to his family and always worked hard to provide us everything that we needed," Soria's daughter, Monica, wrote. "He knew the risk that he would take every single day just to get our family get on in life. His whole world was my mom, his 4 kids, and 2 grandchildren and everyone saw that in him."

CalOSHA, Davey Tree and PG&E have begun assembling their teams to determine what happened, and Local 1245 will also be there to assist in these investigations.

"As we remember the life of Brother Soria and try to process this terrible accident, we all need to reflect on our own lives and families as well," said IBEW 1245 Senior Assistant Business Manager Ralph Armstrong. "This devastating loss serves as a another stark reminder that the work our members perform each day for the safe delivery of reliable power can be unforgiving."

"There is nothing more important than the safety of each and every one of our members and their families," added Dean. "In honor of Jorge's memory, we must re-commit to being our brother's keeper, and do everything in our power to make sure everyone comes home from work the same way they left each morning."

The family has started a GoFundMe, please contribute what you can using <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-for-thefamily>.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Stu Neblett

**S**tuart Edward Neblett died peacefully in his home sitting in front of his computer in Burney California. He was born April 21, 1943 to Dr. Edward and Margaret Neblett in Fresno, CA. He retired from PG&E as a telecommunications subforeman after 47 years with the company. A staunch union activist, Brother Neblett served on the 1245 Advisory Council and the bargaining committee, and stayed active in the labor movement even after his retirement. In 2019, he was honored by IBEW 1245 for 50 years of service.



Stuart Neblett with then-Business Manager Tom Dalzell, celebrating 50 years of service in 2019

He was a cannoneer for the Civil War Re-enactment society of Northern California. He was a member of E Clampus Vitus and an active member at All Saints Episcopal Church in Redding. He delivered meals for Meals on Wheels in the Burney area. and maintained computers for the Senior Center in Burney. He is survived by his wife of 34 years Katherine Rae Neblett, his step son Ian Walsh and his step daughter Meegan Walsh and his sister Anne (Neblett) Johnston and her children Andrea Johnston (Cate), Derek Johnston (Samantha) and Ryan Johnston (Trish).

— adapted from the Redding Record Searchlight

## IN MEMORIAM

### Maria Joana Hernandez

**W**e deeply regret to announce the passing of six-year IBEW 1245 member Maria Joana Hernandez. Sister Hernandez worked as an operating clerk for PG&E in Concord, and sadly lost her battle with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia just one day after her 39th birthday.

*The obituary below is republished from <https://clcafamilly.com/share-memories/maria-hernandez-obituary/CS-20220916-629125>:*

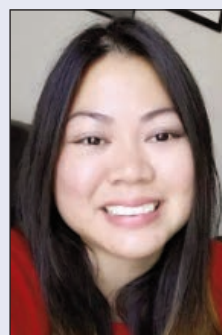
Maria Joana Hernandez was born on September 12, 1983, in Manila, Philippines to George and Mabel Alivio. Loving baby sister to brothers Jose Paulo Alivio, John Gregory Alivio and sister Maria Luisa Alivio. Joan grew up in the District of Paco in the Cote Family Home along with her siblings, multiple cousins, and many pets. Never a dull moment in the house as it was always filled with laughter and fun. Dancing, shopping, eating, and hanging out with friends and family is what she liked to do. Joan graduated De La Salle University in 2004 with a degree in Hospitality.

During her visit to the US in 2006 she was hanging out with her cousin Paulo and his friends, and this is

where Joan met Misael Hernandez and thus began their love story. On October 18, 2007, Joan and Misael tied the knot and over the next 15 years they built an amazing life together. Everywhere she worked she made friends along the way as she was just a joy to be around. Joan enjoyed her work but kept her life balanced by always trying to have some fun.

Joan and Misael loved to travel. Short trips on weekends exploring all over California and longer trips to 13 different states. Hawaii being her favorite with Chicago and New York coming in tied for second. Hiking, Camping, Lake Tahoe, Disneyland, Yosemite just to scratch the surface of places she liked to visit. Joan was always game for an adventure and if you were lucky enough to be invited, it was a guaranteed good time. When she wasn't hanging out with friends you could find her researching on YouTube and planning her next adventure.

As a lover of animals, Joan and Misael are the proud pawrents of Chato, whom they would take



Maria Joana Hernandez

along everywhere they went. Joan even taught Chato how to take selfies as one of his tricks. So, there was always a great photo to be had with their adventures.

In February 2022 Joan was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) which ended up being her hardest mountain to climb. With Misael by her side Joan fought a hard fight over the past 8 months. She endured multiple rounds of chemo, long and sleepless nights in the hospital all without complaining. She was a warrior. Ultimately due to extremely

complicated health issues, she is now resting in paradise.

Joan the amazing wife, daughter, sister, niece, aunt, cousin, and friend. Simply put she was loving, kind, selfless, respectful and funny. Always there to lend an ear, support or crack a joke. Gone but not forgotten, her spirit will live on through those who loved and cherished her. Keep Joan's smile in your heart as goodbyes aren't forever, they are just temporary.



## Ron Borst — Fearless Union Leader at NV Energy

It is with deep sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our union brother, Ron Borst, on Sunday, September 4, 2022 of Labor Day weekend.

Adam Weber, IBEW 1245 Business Representative currently representing IBEW 1245's members at NV Energy wrote, "On Sunday, the world not only lost a great union member, but also a great husband, father, and friend. Your union brothers and sisters will always be thinking of you."



Ron Borst

A seasoned journeyman lineman, Brother Borst was a 56-year, dues paying member of IBEW 1245 at the time of his death. He was president and co-founder of the Reno/Sparks IBEW Retiree Club and an active IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward. His career traversed Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California, and Montana. He fervently believed in the IBEW's Code of Excellence and passing along the craft and the indispensable role of the Union in building a fair and just workplace to younger linemen.

Journeyman Lineman and IBEW 1245 Business Representative Fred Aboud was mentored by Brother Borst as a young apprentice. "Brother Ron treated me like a human being not an apprentice...he never waived from that. He was and is the light of the IBEW," stated Aboud. "We as members can only hope to live up to his dedication and commitment not only to the IBEW but to the trade of being a craftsman and a journeyman lineman."

IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean stated, "Ron Borst was the real deal. He lived and breathed union. He fought for what was right. He believed in the brotherhood and poured heart and soul into the cause of union rights. His word was his bond. He embodied the creed of the Brotherhood: safety first and we are our brother's keeper. He will be sorely missed."

From 2009-2011, Brother Borst led the historic, successful campaign to recover retiree medical benefits in a two-and-a-half year fight with NV Energy. The company had unilaterally and arbitrarily slashed retiree medical benefits that had been negotiated over several bargaining cycles.

When the company abruptly ended a meeting without addressing retirees' concerns, Borst fearlessly grabbed the microphone to announce a rally and picket — the first picket line in sixty years. His deep, resonant voice capti-

vated audiences young and old, demanding attention and respect, on the picket line, at the Board Room, in the Union Hall.

He was relentless in his defense of retirees' medical care, calling upon the company to honor their word. He was instrumental in mobilizing active and retired members, and allies in the protracted struggle for the promised benefits. From Reno to Las Vegas, to New York City, Brother Borst unhesitatingly lifted his voice to demand justice, a battle Local 1245 won.

"Ron was fiercely Union. He never backed down and never gave up," said Rita Weisshaar, vice president of the Reno/Sparks Retiree Club, an active Organizing Steward Lead, and a leader in the NV Energy fight alongside brother Borst. Former IBEW Organizer Fred Ross, who staffed the NV fight added, "He was a fierce defender of IBEW Local 1245 and the membership, a gentle giant who knew no fear."

"I only knew Ron Borst for a short period of time, but he touched me in many ways," said Bill Wallace, member of the Local 1245 Retirees Club, an active Organizing Steward, and a long time-time 1245 activist. "Ron had a powerful effect on me, because of the infinite strength of his convictions. He was able to impart this strength with kindness and compassion to everyone he met. I am privileged to have known Ron. I will miss his caring positive optimism and Ron will always be in my thoughts."

The NV Energy fight was transformative, not only for NV retirees, but for the Union, planting the seeds for a deeper investment in organizing and the genesis of the Organizing Steward Program.

"His DNA was 100% unionist," said former IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. "His willingness to risk all to win all for retiree medical not only secured retiree medical but established our relationship with NV Energy and the launching of the Organizing Steward Program."

Brother Borst reveled in the growth of the Organizing Steward program and often stated his profound gratitude to the young people picking up the torch to defend worker rights, rarely missing a training or an action on his own time.

He fundamentally understood that unions were working men and women

standing together to collectively demand fair wages, benefits, and working conditions, and that without the power of the union, working people had no chance to win fair wages and benefits, let alone a secure retirement.

"Ron Borst was always an inspiration," said Assistant Business Manager Rene Cruz Martinez, who currently leads the Organizing Program. "His devotion to the brotherhood and sisterhood was unparalleled. He was someone I looked up to, respected and admired."

IBEW 1245 President Cecelia de la Torre shared, "I met him during the NV Energy fight in 2010. He was so active and strong, yet one of the nicest guys you'd ever meet. We have been friends since that day. I will miss him."

In retirement, he and his beloved wife, Vickie Borst, regularly attended union meetings and events, and participated in Nevada's electoral campaigns to advance the election of labor friendly candidates.

Brother Borst was instrumental in building the Reno/Sparks Retiree Club and served as president. As recently as May, 2022 the club raised funds for the purchase of 135 fans for low-income seniors. Brother Borst launched the annual fan drive in 2015 after hearing a radio ad about low-income seniors suffering from Nevada's withering summer heat because they had no access to air conditioning. Borst invited retirees from his club and other IBEW retiree clubs across Nevada to collect as many fans as they could, and a tradition was

born. A week before he died, he reached out to a former union brother who was recovering from a fall and offered to craft a special walking cane.

When he wasn't working for the union, Brother Borst pursued many other interests. He was an avid fisherman, hunter, and a gifted woodworker. He crafted a table for the vestibule of the Union Hall with the IBEW emblem. He carved handmade gavels for Union leadership and Unit Chairs. His most recent endeavor was the expansion of his woodshop, building a traditional truss structure using pegs.

Brother Borst was initiated into the IBEW on December 31, 1966, card number D310906, as an "A" Member. He retired from NV Energy in June, 2006 after a 40-year career, and remained active for the next twenty years as a dues paying member.

Tom Bird, current President of the Nevada Association of Retired Americans (NARA) President, NV AFL-CIO Executive Board Member, and co-leader of the NV Energy campaign, shared, "Our brother Ron Borst, was a high climbing lineman to his last days. He even built his own temple, unfortunately, he will not be able to enjoy it. I don't know anyone who could turn a piece of wood like he could. He was a man of strong convictions he used to hide his kind heart. When he got that twinkle in his eye and he'd say, 'You know, Birdman' and you knew one of his good stories was about to go down. Rest in peace brother, we'll hold the pull from here."

— Eileen Purcell, IBEW 1245 Senior Advisor to the Business Manager

### Ron Borst – In His Own Words

“I grew up in northeastern Washington state, in a town of 30 people. The word ‘union’ did not exist in that area.

Eventually, I got a chance to go to work for an IBEW contractor. I joined IBEW Local 77 and got a chance to complete the lineman apprenticeship. I began to see the importance of a union, the ‘old boomer’ linemen saw to that, telling me, “Be at the union meeting or else!” That was 50+ years ago.

I was very active in my state and Local 125, in Portland Oregon, but I was pretty quiet here at 1245 until 2009. I had been retired three years, and that's when all hell broke loose! NV Energy CEO Michael Yakira arbitrarily kept our retiree medical benefits that we had bought and paid for in negotiations. It was time to fight! That we did, with the help from Tom Dalzell, Fred Ross Jr, Eileen Purcell, and the 1245 Executive Board. Vickie and I worked at signing up 1245 retirees to join the Retirees Club in our “Right to Work” state. We won that battle with the support of the retirees. We also took on the billionaires in Nevada and defeated Question 3, which would have deregulated the utilities in Nevada.

The IBEW has influenced many communities in a positive way, and being involved keeps us strong. It gives me great pleasure to see 140+ organizing stewards stepping up; I know the torch will be carried way into the future by these able-bodied people.”





## Units lend a helping hand

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

**The Reno/Sparks Retirees club** donated \$250 to Ronald McDonald House and \$250 to Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation.

**Pismo Beach Unit #1215** donated \$500 to the Atascadero Youth Football.

**City of Redding Unit #3217** donated \$500 to the Wolfpack 12U Travel Softball team.

**Chico Unit #3417** donated \$500 to the California State Grange/Chico Grange.

**Mowbray's Trees Unit #4717** donated \$500 to the Royal Stage Children's Community Theater.

**Outside Line Unit #4910** donated \$500 to the Placer High School Girls Softball Team.

**Mario's Trees Unit #4718** donated \$500 to the Stockton Youth Soccer Team, Stockton TLJ FC.

**Watsonville/Davey Tree Unit #4723** donated \$500 to the Guerreros Soccer Team in Watsonville.

## 1245 Raises Funds for UC Davis Burn Center

On August 11, a contract crew working on a de-energized 500KV line in Corning had a crew member receive serious burns from induction. That lineman, IBEW 1245 member Sammy Randby, ended up being airlifted to UC Davis Burn Center in Sacramento for treatment.

Over the course of the next week, Sister Randby received compassionate and loving care from the doctors and nurses

inside the Burn Unit. For this reason, IBEW 1245 set out to do a fundraiser in appreciation of their efforts.

\$3,000 was raised from 1245 staff and members, and the 1245 Executive Board received a unit motion requesting a match in funds. The request was generously approved, and a check for \$6,000 was issued to UC Davis Burn Center.

— Bob Gerstle, IBEW 1245  
Senior Assistant Business Manager

## Support for IBEW 1245 Member Who Was Attacked During Work

IBEW 1245 member Freddie Hewitt, a PG&E Gas Compliance Rep from San Carlos, was attacked while on the job; a random passer-by on the street stabbed Hewitt in the neck, hitting his jugular. Thanks to quick action from his co-worker and medical team, Hewitt thankfully survived the attack and is now on a long road to recovery.

Hewitt's family, including his wife

and their daughter with special needs, could use our support while Hewitt heals and recovers. Please give what you can using the GoFundMe link <https://www.gofundme.com/f/vxtk4b-healing-and-recovery-fund>



## Support for Redding Lineman Injured in Motorcycle Accident

In early October, IBEW 1245 member Jimmy Parks was in a serious motorcycle accident that left him in critical condition. Parks has a loving wife and three young children at home, and the family could use our support during this difficult time as they face medical and travel expenses associated with his long recovery.

Please donate what you can and leave a message for the family using <https://www.gofundme.com/f/ffnqq-parks-family>



### Organizing Stewards Kickoff, continued from page 9

much until Ron got me energized," IBEW 1245 retiree and Organizing Steward Jim Lappin shared. "I got involved in the fight at NV Energy for our medical benefits. When I retired, he asked if I wanted to join the Retiree Club. Then a few months later he asked if I wanted to become an Organizing Steward. I wouldn't be here, or in any of our fights without Ron."

IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward Veronica Rivera shared how he took her under

his wing, preparing her to be the IBEW 1245 Unit Chair of the Reno/Sparks Unit.

"Ron and Vickie were like parents to me, they mentored me. I was appointed Unit Chair and had no idea what was entailed. He said, 'Kid, come over here. You need to come home with us, we're going to have a couple of drinks, we're going to practice this, and you're going to be the best Unit chair ever.' And we did that for a couple of weekends. He always mentored

us. It is a huge loss. He will be missed," she said, noting that Borst was always willing to lend a hand to a union member in need. "When Ron learned that there was a journeyman lineman who didn't have enough money to buy new boots, he asked him his size and gave him his boots. That's the kind of person he was."

"Seeing younger members pick up the torch as organizing stewards was a source of great pride and hope," I added. "Ron and his wife Vickie bled union and

the brotherhood. Knowing others would continue the lifelong struggle for worker rights from the bargaining table to the ballot box gave him peace. He inspired a whole new generation of trade unionists committed to building the brotherhood and sisterhood."

A "Celebration of Life" for Brother Ron Borst was held on Monday, October 31, 2022 at the Reno Elks Club.

— Eileen Purcell, IBEW 1245 Senior Advisor to the Business Manager





# Congratulations newly-retired members

The Local 1245 Retirees Club congratulates these recently-retired members of the union. We invite you to participate in a Retiree Club chapter in the East Bay, the North Bay, Merced, Sacramento/Vacaville, 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!

Alvarez, Mary 41 years Salinas, CA	Blum, Thomas 25 years Westwood, CA	Cates, David 43 years Atascadero, CA	Duenas, Rudy 32 years Oroville, CA	Haggerty, Terry 26 years Lone, CA	Leslie, Micalandis 37 years Fresno, CA	Navarro, Marlene 41 years Arroyo Grande, CA	Ratto, Larry 40 years Livermore, CA	Thompson, Edward 38 years Salem, OR
Baca, Richard 32 years Salinas, CA	Brockhouse, Elizabeth 14 years Rio Vista, CA	Center, Kevin 47 years Woodland, CA	Esmerian, Cynthia 3 years Auburn, CA	Harrison, Mitch 20 years Tollhouse, CA	Llamas, Ramon 38 years Concord, CA	Neiley, William 32 years Flournoy, CA	Rice, Timothy 31 years Martinez, CA	Vieira, Sylvan 42 years Gridley, CA
Baraty, Dennis 41 years Smyrna, GA	Bryan, Russell 20 years Hesperia, CA	Chang, Stella 5 years Daly City, CA	Feil, Karl 38 years Glendale, AZ	Hayes, James 38 years Modesto, CA	Long, Sherry 31 years Bakersfield, CA	Nelson, Conrad 10 years Georgetown, CA	Roan-Montgomery, Delena 42 years Daly City, CA	Vu, Lan 6 years San Jose, CA
Bautista, Frarino 38 years Roseville, CA	Camera, Johnny 37 years Spreckels, CA	Chetcuti, May 43 years Martinez, CA	Franks, Augustine 37 years Oceanside, CA	Jennings, Kirk 37 years Corning, CA	Lynch, Richard 42 years Stockton, CA	O'Byrne, Daniel 38 years Antioch, CA	Russell, Karen 43 years Clearwater, FL	Vucurovich, Matthew 36 years Windsor, CA
Beath, James 26 years Sonora, CA	Canavan, John 37 years Cool, CA	Ching, Romeo 21 years Elk Grove, CA	Galliazzo, Pamela 19 years Valley Springs, CA	Johnson, Richard 45 years Bonney Lake, WA	Marcott, Mark 11 years Tucson, AZ	Olson, Mary 40 years Redding, CA	Saldua, Priscilla 19 years Stockton, CA	Whitley, Carl Jr. 36 years Chowchilla, CA
Bidou, Chad 31 years Benicia, CA	Cardin, Dennis 30 years Sacramento, CA	Choate, Cynthia 27 years Bakersfield, CA	Glendon, Ronald 42 years Windsor, CA	Kava, Elizabeth 14 years San Jose, CA	Martin, Mark 23 years Eureka, CA	O'Neil, Kenneth 34 years Santa Rosa, CA	Secrest, Robert 41 years Selinsgrove, PA	Whitney, Scott 33 years Modesto, CA
		Cohl, Wayne 32 years Union City, CA	Gonzalez, Robert 44 years Oakdale, CA	Keen, Timothy 34 years Napa, CA	Martinez, Elizabeth 24 years Sacramento, CA	Perez, Daniel 42 years Pine Grove, CA	Souza, Brian 37 years Middletown, CA	Woodman, David 42 years Modesto, CA
		Conti, Greg 39 years Clovis, CA	Goody, Gary 42 years Naalehu, Hawaii	Kennedy, Suzie 40 years Pacifica, CA	Miller, Charles 38 years Martinez, CA	Petersen, Gary 34 years Arroyo Grande, CA	Spencer, Hilda 42 years Richmond, CA	Zandarski, Brian 18 years Modesto, CA
		Cordoza, Gary 31 years Woodland, CA	Grimm, Barbara 29 years San Jose, CA	Kress, Phil 22 years Concord, CA	Mitchell, Craig 45 years Rathdrum, ID	Petty, Kerry 39 years Bakersfield, CA	Thomas, Peter 43 years Pollock Pines, CA	
		Cummings, Curtis 43 years Salinas, CA	Gutierrez, Tim 44 years Modesto, CA	Le Blanc, Richard Jr. 37 years Oroville, CA	Muno, John 29 years Seligman, AZ	Queen, Anthony 37 years Napa, CA		Zerkel, Steven 39 years Novato, CA



## Legislative Achievements, continued from page 6

funding received for regional clean hydrogen hubs program must be used as specified. Also GO-Biz must consult with and coordinate clean hydrogen-related efforts with relevant stakeholders, like IBEW/CCUE. **IMPACT:** This bill ensures that 1245 gas members benefit from any progress in California from implementing clean hydrogen technologies via the Federal government goals and subsidies, funded at a minimum of \$125 million. **STATUS:** AB 157 passed both houses of the Legislature and was signed into law on Sept. 27.

**SB 1020 (Laird)** sets interim targets for generating clean energy. Current law requires 100% of retail electricity to be provided by renewables and non-GHG sources, like as wind and solar, by 2045. This law accelerates that rate, requiring 90% by 2035 and 95% by 2040. In addition, all state agencies must source their energy from 100% clean sources by 2035, ten years sooner than law now requires. **IMPACT:** This bill will accelerate clean energy, which creates jobs for 1245 members to increase capacity on utility distribution systems. It is expected to drive significant investment in California's transmission grid to accept and deliver an increased volume of clean energy to customers throughout the state, creating work for 1245 contractors. The CPUC affordability requirement should reduce subsidies for non-utility products/services, and focus more of the customers' rates on direct electricity and gas service, greatly benefiting 1245 PG&E members. **STATUS:** SB 1020 passed the Assembly and Senate, and Governor Newsom signed it on Friday, Sept 16.

**SB 1157 (C. Garcia/Limon)** prohibits new oil and gas wells or extensive retrofitting of existing units within 3,200 feet

of homes, schools, nursing homes and hospitals, and requires operators to take certain steps at the thousands of existing wells within that buffer zone. Operators must monitor toxic leaks, emissions and install alarm systems. In addition, new requirements would include limits on noise, light, dust and vapors. **IMPACT:** This bill is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, some of the provisions that would apply to natural gas infrastructure facilities suggest 1245 members would receive more maintenance work for PG&E to meet the requirements. But the lack of clarity around CPUC oversight remains. So, we must monitor the implementation and challenge folding natural gas facilities into new regulations that are inconsistent with existing CPUC regulations for the same arena. **STATUS:** SB 1157 passed the Legislature and Governor Newsom signed it on Friday, Sept 16.

**AB 2316 (Ward)** requires the CPUC to establish a community energy program that allows customers to subscribe to community renewable energy sites. The community projects would be built under prevailing wage requirements. At least 50% of the customers must be low income. This would be built and owned by utilities. **IMPACT:** This bill creates work for either inside or outside contractors to build Community Solar sized projects, owned by the IOUs. The bill somewhat mimics the SMUD Solar Shares program that allows new homes to meet the solar energy requirement by purchasing power from these projects. It also allows low income customers to gain access to solar power, installed by IBEW contractors. **STATUS:** This bill passed the Legislature and was signed into law by the Governor on Sept. 16.

**AB 2143 (Carillo)** requires prevailing wage be paid for any qualified Net Energy Metering rooftop solar installations that have a generation capacity of 15kW or greater, exempting residential customers. Also requires access for NEM installations for low-income residents without adding to cost shift. **IMPACT:** This bill finally

establishes a prevailing wage requirement on the biggest energy subsidy in CA. This creates pressure on anti-union solar contractors to use IBEW signatory contractors, and slows the expected increase of NEM cost shift. **STATUS:** This bill has passed the Legislature and was signed into law on Sept. 29.

**AB 1717 (Aguilar-Curry)** expands the definition of "public works" to include fuel reduction work done under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of public funds performed as part of a fire mitigation project. Work must be performed per state apprenticeship or certification training program. **IMPACT:** When work is identified as wild-fire mitigation and funded in some way with state funds, IBEW 1245 tree contractors can bid the work at prevailing wage rates. This work could be county requirements on private lands, county and state park lands, as well as federal lands. **STATUS:** This bill has passed the



Assembly Utilities and Energy Chair Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella), Gov. Newsom and IBEW 1245's Hunter Stern pose for a photo at the signing of the Governor's climate package.

Legislature but has not been signed into law by the Governor.

**SB 1075 (Skinner)** requires the Energy Commission to study and model potential growth for hydrogen and its role in decarbonizing the electrical and transportation sectors of the economy, and helping to achieve specified goals. The study specifies information relative to the deployment, development, and use of hydrogen. The bill would require the state board to consult with the California Workforce Development Board and labor and workforce organizations. **IMPACT:** The bill requires the State of California to determine the viability of hydrogen as a clean fuel and its use. We expect such use would be through existing gas infrastructure, helping to retain 1245 gas worker jobs. **STATUS:** This bill has passed the Legislature and was signed into law on Sept. 16.

— Hunter Stern, IBEW 1245 Assistant Business Manager



## Troy Weese Wins Quarterly Photo Contest



### Troy Weese's winning photo

**C**ongrats to IBEW 1245 member Troy Weese, who has won the 1245 quarterly photo contest! Brother Weese, a journeyman lineman and 17-year IBEW 1245 member who works for Modesto Irrigation District,

was unable to accept his award in person, so his \$500 check has been issued to him by mail.

All IBEW 1245 members in good standing are eligible to enter up to five original, high-resolution photos into the contest each quarter. Sub-

missions should be sent to [RGB1@ibew1245.com](mailto:RGB1@ibew1245.com). Please put "photo contest" in the subject of the email, and include your full name and member number or date of birth to confirm eligibility.