



Bob Dean
Business Manager

There's a whole lot of money, a whole lot of work, and a whole lot of challenges on the horizon for IBEW 1245 members.

In early April, the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) announced an initial \$9.3 billion investment in 46 transmission projects to accommodate the state's shift to renewable energy and the development of offshore wind farms. This may seem like a lot (and it is) — but it's only a fraction of the \$30 billion 20-year transmission plan that CAISO initially proposed last year.

That's in addition to the \$20 billion that the Governor allocated last year for

other climate initiatives, such as accelerating transportation electrification, building decarbonization, EV infrastructure, wildfire mitigation, hydrogen hubs and carbon capture utilization and sequestration — all work performed and supported by IBEW 1245 members. And let's not forget about the \$3.5 billion that's already been allocated to the GreenLink transmission project in Nevada for undergrounding, fire hardening and capacity improvement work.

These investments, and the jobs they will create, present an enormous opportunity for our members and our union. As we all know, IBEW 1245 members are uniquely qualified for precisely this type of complex utility, transportation and manufacturing work. But with so many massive projects slated to be completed in such a short period of time, we must ensure that we have the skilled and trained manpower needed to complete the work safely and effectively. This means expanding our apprenticeships and other training programs (which

we've already done and continue to do) while continuing to keep our focus on safety.

We believe that we are more than capable of manning this work. But with tens of billions of dollars on the line, it may come as no surprise that others from outside the IBEW are looking to grab a piece (or maybe even all) of the pie. And it's shaping up to be quite a fight, with legislation already circulating in Sacramento that would allow parts of our work to go out to competitive bid — potentially being performed by non-IBEW workers and companies. We're at risk of losing an untold number of jobs, along with the wages and benefits we've accrued over decades of bargaining.

But this is about more than just our work — it's about building safe and reliable 21st-century gas, electric and transportation infrastructure that will stand

the test of time. And we're the only ones who know how to do it right.

As your union leader, I've directed my staff to do whatever it takes to protect and defend the work that has traditionally been performed by IBEW members (right now, our attention is focused on beating back these legislative attacks in Sacramento). And I'm also relying on our shop stewards, our first line of defense, to continue serving as our eyes and ears, letting us know if and when our work is being encroached upon.

This is likely to be a years-long fight, and we're counting on you, our members, to show your strength, your skills, your tenacity, and your expertise as we demonstrate that IBEW 1245 is a cut above the rest. We are and will continue to be the safest, most highly trained workers the country has to offer.

Stay safe and look out for each other.

Jody Castro Steps Into New Union Staff Role

IBEW 1245 Business Representative Jody Castro has been promoted to the role of Safety Director. Brother Castro became an IBEW member in 2005 after beginning his career at PG&E in GC Distribution Gas. Shortly thereafter, he moved over to substation as an apprentice electrician and worked in both GC and Division as a journeyman electrician.

Castro has always played an active role in safety, both as the grassroots lead in substation as well as in his time with IBEW 1245 since being hired on staff as a Business Rep in 2020. As Safety Director, brother Castro will be responsible for all internal safety within the IBEW 1245 organization, as well as act as a liaison between many of our signatory employers and the union.



Jody Castro

"As a respected journeyman, Jody has been a longtime advocate for the safety of his brothers and sisters. Jody was the perfect choice for this role and he will help move safety forward at 1245," IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean said.

In his new role, Castro will report to Senior Assistant Business Manager Ralph Armstrong. "As with anything we do in our daily lives, the way to get better is to be committed and immersed in it," Armstrong said. "Work as a Safety Director is no different. This is our first full time Safety Director at 1245 and we couldn't be more excited to have Jody in this role."

For issues on safety, Castro can be reached directly via email at Safety@ibew1245.com

VIDEO: IBEW 1245 Gas Workers — The Best in the Business

What does it take to safely replace a live gas main valve in the middle of a residential community?

See how this IBEW 1245 gas crew utilizes their exceptional skills, expertise and equipment to get the job done safely and efficiently.

Watch it at ibew1245.com/video



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
[https://mypgbenefits.com/
emotional-peer-volunteer.shtml](https://mypgbenefits.com/emotional-peer-volunteer.shtml)



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Chris Miles Joins IBEW 1245 Staff

Sixteen-year IBEW 1245 member Chris Miles has joined the IBEW 1245 staff as a Business Rep. He will be working with outside line members in the Sierra, Central Valley, and South Bay areas.

Brother Miles began his career at SMUD in 2007 as a lineman apprentice, briefly stopping at the City of Redding as a journeyman lineman before moving to the outside line group in 2019. The following year, he became a general foreman at Henkel's & McCoy and continued to hold that position prior to coming on staff.

Over his 16 years, Miles instructed two separate apprentice hot/cold schools along with organizing and instructing SMUD's rubber glove refresher program.

"The thing I like about being a 1245 member is the personal interactions I have received throughout my career from the members. Everyone says this is a family or brotherhood, and I can't

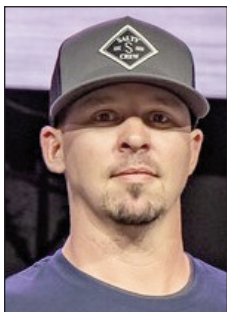
agree with that more," Miles said. "Being a member has allowed me to experience things I never would have thought possible. From lineman rodeos,

mutual aid, world-class training, and meeting friends who I consider family. I owe that to 1245, but mostly the fellow members."

"I had two main reasons I wanted to join 1245. One being I have such a passion for the trade and the other is I honestly love helping people," he added. "And from

what I can find, this position is the best platform to incorporate the two."

Brother Miles is a proud husband to his high school sweetheart and the father of two girls, ages 8 and 11. His family is very active in the community, volunteering at the local high school (El Dorado High School in Placerville) where his wife works and coaches volleyball. In his free time, he enjoys mountain bike riding, hiking, coaching his daughters in sports and boating in the summer.



Chris Miles

Nicole Brooks Joins IBEW 1245 Staff

Twelve-year IBEW 1245 member Nicole Brooks has joined the IBEW 1245 staff as a Business Rep. She will be working with members in PG&E's East Bay/Mission Division.

Prior to coming on staff, Sister Brooks

worked for PG&E in a variety of classifications, including an Electrical Apprentice, GC Gas Utility Worker, and most recently in the GC Gas transmission department as a Senior Construction Operator. She has been filling in various assignments as temporary Business Rep for Local 1245 since 2022.

Brooks has served the union as a shop steward and safety steward. She's on 1245's Control the Pressure peer-to-peer safety committee and served as an Advisory Council member representing GC of PG&E At Large for over three years. She has also served as a 1245 delegate for several conferences, safety summits, and recently presented a transmission workshop at the Inter-Union Gas Conference.

In her role as Business Rep, Brooks extends her gratitude to IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean. "Thank you for allowing me to represent and support our members," said Brooks.

Sister Brooks has one daughter in high school. In her spare time, Brooks loves live music, traveling, working out, and the outdoors.



Nicole Brooks

CALENDAR

- May 12:** Redding Pin Dinner Service Awards
- May 13:** Chico Pin Dinner Service Awards
- May 20:** PG&E/IBEW Lineman's Rodeo, Livermore
- June 9:** Monterey Pin Dinner Service Awards
- June 16:** San Francisco Pin Dinner Service Awards
- June 23:** East Bay Pin Dinner Service Awards
- July 21:** Reno Pin Dinner Service Awards
- July 22:** Advisory Council Meeting – Reno, NV
- August 5:** PG&E Gas Rodeo, Winters
- Sept. 23:** IBEW 1245 Golf Tournament, Vacaville
- Oct. 7:** IBEW 1245 Car Show, Winters
- Oct. 28:** Advisory Council Meeting, Vacaville

Look for more events to come at <https://ibew1245.com/calendar/>

IBEW 1245 Recognized for Excellence in Union Communications



IBEW 1245 is the proud recipient of six awards from the International Labor Communications Association in 2022 (for content created in 2021).

1st place Political Action/Organizing Campaign: Best Collateral "The Union Difference" organizing brochure

2nd place Electronic Media: Best Issues/Advocacy Video *Our Safety Code*

2nd place Writing: Best Analysis *Lessons from the United Farm Workers — A career retrospective* by former IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell

3rd place Visual Communications: Best Design — Newspaper or Newsletter *Utility Reporter*

3rd place Visual Communications: Best Design — Single-Issue Publication *A Fond Farewell for Tom Dalzell*

Honorable mention Writing: Best Feature Story *"It Feels Like I Won" — IBEW 1245 frontline members share their experience getting the COVID-19 vaccine*

Find Your Unit Meeting

Please use the meeting-lookup tool at ibew1245.com/unit-meetings/ to find the most up-to-date information for your unit. You can also enter your zipcode to find the meeting closest to you.

Please Note: All Local 1245 unit meetings are open to all Local 1245 members, regardless of employer.

New Meeting Location for Unit #4711 (Mowbray's)

Unit #4711 (LCTT Mowbray's / Peninsula), has relocated its unit meeting to Mountain Mikes, 1724 Miramonte Ave, Mountain View, CA. Meeting dates and time will remain the same.

— Junior Ornelas, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

New Location for City of Santa Clara Unit Meeting

Unit #1411, City of Santa Clara, has moved its meeting location to Round Table Pizza, 2615 The Alameda, Santa Clara. The meeting will continue to be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 4:00pm.

— Charley Souders, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Hollister Unit #1219 Re-established

Unit #1219, Hollister, has been re-established. The unit will meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 4:30p at Pizza Factory, 301 The Alameda in San Juan Bautista.

— Casey Barker, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Modesto Unit Meetings Began in April

Unit #2515, Modesto, found a new unit chair and recorder and once again began holding regular meetings beginning in April. The meetings are on the second Wednesday of every other month at 4:30pm at Michael's Pizza, 500 N. Carpenter Road Modesto, CA.

— Ryan Skelton, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

New Meeting Time and Location for Lake County LCTT Unit #4417

Unit #4417, Lake County Tree Trimmers, has moved its unit meeting to Round Table Pizza, 821 11th St., Lakeport, CA. The new start time is 6:00 pm; the meeting dates will remain the same.

— Ray Banfill, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

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IBEW 1245 Members at Marathon Petroleum Ratify New Agreement

On March 21, IBEW 1245 members at the Marathon Petroleum Refinery in Martinez, CA ratified a new collective bargaining agreement after a difficult and protracted bargaining process. These members work at the power plant within the refinery that was formerly owned by Wood Group LLC, and prior to that, Amec Foster Wheeler.

The IBEW 1245 negotiating team began bargaining with Marathon in June of 2022. The Agreement was originally set to expire April 30, 2022. In exchange for agreeing to delay bargaining, the union negotiated a brief con-

tract extension with language that provided that any wage increase would be effective retroactively to May 1, 2022.

The parties remained far apart throughout negotiations, as the IBEW team sought to make improvements to the existing agreement, while the Company proposed many takeaways, such as the elimination of certain overtime provisions, elimination of two floating holidays, reduction in shift differential pay, and a reduction in call-out compensation, and the implementation of a new Drug and Alcohol testing policy.

The members rejected both a "Final" offer from the Company and a "Last Best

Final" offer. The "Final" offer was for a three-year agreement with wage increases of 2.5%, 2.5%, and 2.5% each May 1, of the Agreement with a \$2,500 bonus. The "Last Best Final" offer had wage increases of 2.5%, 3%, and 3% but with no bonus. Both offers contained the Company concessions mentioned above.

Despite the apparent stalemate, the 1245 committee remained committed to reaching a mutually agreed Tentative Agreement. To that end, 1245 requested that the Company agree to participate in mediated negotiations, utilizing a mediator provided by the Federal Mediation

and Conciliation Services. After much coaxing, the Company agreed.

On March 14, the company and union met for mediated negotiations. Throughout the mediated negotiation session, the 1245 committee sought to improve on the Last Best Final Offer by getting comparable value for any concessions that the company sought. By the end of the day, we reached a mediated settlement that we were able to recommend to the membership for ratification. The Mediated Settlement Agreement contained the following provisions:

- Lump sum payment of \$4,000 to all employees (paid within 30 days)
- A five-year agreement — May 1, 2022, to April 30, 2027
- Wage increases:
 - May 1, 2022 — 2.5% (retroactive)
 - May 1, 2023 — 3%
 - May 1, 2024 — 3%
 - May 1, 2025 — 3.25%
 - May 1, 2026 — 3.5%
- Double-time for all hours worked on the seventh consecutive day of work, Holidays, and callouts, in exchange for the elimination of \$15/hr additional callout pay, shift differential reduction from \$2/hour for all hours worked to \$2.50/hr for night shift only, and a reduction in floating holidays from four to two.
- Acceptance of the Company Drug and Alcohol program with an implementation in January 2024.

The IBEW 1245 negotiating team consisted of bargaining unit members Devin Mun, Ted Donnell, Victor Aviles, and myself.

— Al Fortier, IBEW 1245 Senior Assistant Business Manager

New Five-Year Agreement Ratified for NV Energy

After many months of bargaining, IBEW 1245 and NV Energy (NVE) reached a tentative agreement, which was subsequently ratified by the members at NVE by a vote of 211-129 (62% in favor) on Dec 2, 2022. This vote also represented an 80% turnout rate from our membership. The new five-year CBA includes: Notable increases to wages and total compensation, with a total compensation package ranging from 16.56% to 31.01% over five years, for an average of 3.31% to 6.21% a year respectively.

All classifications will receive the following:

- Within 30 days of ratification — Wages: **2.5%**; Inflation Increase: **1.00% (3.50% for year one)**
- March 31, 2023 — Wages: **2.00%**
- September 22, 2023 — Wages: **2.50%** (Totaling **4.50%** for 2023)
- September 22, 2024 — Wages: **2.50%**
- September 22, 2025 — Wages: **2.50%**
- September 22, 2026 — Wages: **2.50%**

Additional inequity raises will be given to other specified employees:

- **Lines Classifications** listed in the offer will be paid at the rate of **\$60.96, \$67.06, and \$61.87** as listed in the offer. Additionally, the above annual wage increase shall apply in the years 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026.
- **System Control** listed in the offer will be paid at the rate of **\$52.82, \$55.60, \$55.33, \$56.44, \$58.13, \$60.88, \$61.04, \$64.09, \$67.29, \$70.66**, per their classification as listed in the offer. Additionally, the above annual wage increase shall apply in the years 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026.
- **Field Classifications** listed in the offer will receive **\$2.00** raise per hour
- **Generation and Telecommunication Classifications** listed in the offer will receive **\$1.00** raise per hour
- **Clerical classifications** listed in the offer will receive **\$1.75** raise per hour

In addition to the wage increases, the agreement also contains the following changes:



IBEW 1245 Staff together with the NVE Bargaining Committee

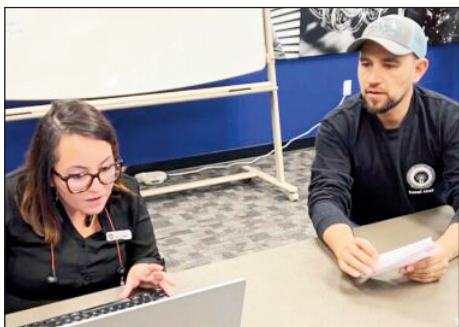
- Revision of Journeyman Lineman job classifications to include Rubber Gloving.
- Revision of System Control job classifications.
- Changes to the metrics required to receive the annual safety bonus of 2% and making the safety bonus an annual event paid if the metrics are met.
- New options for retiree medical starting January 1, 2024, including the ability to transport the Company subsidy.
- Reno and Carson lines may be assigned as duty employees as needed when volunteers are not available.
- Effective January 1, 2027, employees would no longer be eligible to apply for the employee discount. If an employee retires before 1/1/2027 they will still be eligible for the employee discount upon retirement.
- Title 17.1(d) would be amended to cap the meal allowance at \$38.00 in

2023 and then beginning January 1, 2025, would adjust annually in accordance with the general wage increases at the time those general wage increases are implemented.

- During the term of the current collective bargaining agreement, several letters of the agreement have been agreed to; these agreements state that they will be incorporated into the next collective bargaining agreement. The parties will revise the collective bargaining agreement accordingly.

IBEW 1245 staffers Adam Weber and I worked closely with the members of the Bargaining Committee, which was comprised of 1245 members Ben Shelton, Zach Romeo, Reto Gross, Veronica Rivera, Britney Morris, Victor Barajas, Ryan Morris, Marty Kumle and Louis Kelly, along with help from the Election Committee, Judge Mariana De La Torre and Tellers Britney Morris, Victor Barajas, Dulce Jimenez and Anarosa Valenzuela.

— Dylan Gottfried, IBEW 1245 Sr. Assistant Business Manager



Tellers Dulce Jimenez and Victor Barajas



Tellers Britney Morris and Anarosa Valenzuela

IBEW 1245 Members at AC Transit Approve Three-Year Agreement

The IBEW 1245 bargaining committee reached a tentative agreement with AC Transit District on a three-year successor MOU. The tentative agreement was ratified by the membership with a 79% approval vote. The agreement provides for 3.4% general wage increases in year one, 3.4% in year two, and 3.2% in year three. Also included in the agreement are one additional recognized paid holiday (Juneteenth), safety shoe vouchers, group life coverage increased to two times annual base pay, improvements to vacation carry-overs, and COVID-19 Appreciation Pay.

Special thanks to bargaining committee members Kevin Auer, Dale Brewer, and James Fisher.

— Charley Souders, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

January – June 2023

New Agreement Ratified at City of Redding — Maintenance

The City of Redding and the IBEW 1245 Maintenance Unit came to a tentative agreement, took it to a vote and ratified on Nov. 2, 2022. The agreement was approved by City Council on Nov. 15.

The agreement included the following:

- Year 1 — 14% wage increase for all classifications, except for the Mechanic I, Mechanic II, and Working Supervisor — Shop classification which will receive an 18% wage increase effective December 4, 2022.
- Year 2 — 5% wage increase for all classifications.
- Year 3 — 5% wage increase for all classifications.
- A new classification titled Solid Waste Truck Driver III which will incorporate the truck drivers that take the refuse from the Transfer Station to the Landfill. Additionally, the incorporation of the existing 2.5% incentive pay for the Transfer Station Operator (which is the individual who works with the green waste at the Transfer Station) into the overall salary for the classification.
- A new classification titled Materials Recycling Facilities Operator incorporating the existing Baler Operator into the new classification, with wages equal to the Baler Operator (total of two positions).
- Added grade IV certification pay for the Warehouse Worker — Water.
- Modification of the existing rest period language to allow the eight hours (consecutive off duty) to be applied in lieu of reporting to the next regularly scheduled shift.
- An increase to the Long Term Disability payment of 60% of employee's salary to a maximum of \$7,000 per month.

Concessions include an exchange of the Columbus Day holiday (floater) for Juneteenth (fixed), a decrease from 240 to 160 hours for the CTO bank (no calendar or fiscal accrual cap), an increase of .85% to the normal cost of CalPERS, and .13% to the normal cost of PARS, an increase from 15% to 20% cost share of the City's Group Health Insurance Base plan.

Additional changes were incorporation of the City's Personnel Alcohol and Substance Abuse Policy, clean-up of existing language related to call out and reporting, addition of new classifications added since last MOU, and other non-substantive clerical clean-up.

— Dominic McCurtain,
IBEW 1245 Business Rep

**More bargaining news
on page 33**



CAISO Bargaining team, from left: Eddie Williams, Gerald Williams, Gabriel Roach, Al Fortier, Jacqueline Perlette, Dave Sankey and Brandon Russell

IBEW 1245 Members at CAISO Ratify First Collective Bargaining Agreement

After nearly a year of bargaining, the IBEW 1245 members at the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) overwhelmingly ratified their first collective bargaining agreement. The three-year agreement includes general wage increases of 5% in 2023, 3.75% 2024, and 3.5% 2025, as well as 7% retroactive to June 2022 on eligible earnings. The bargaining committee also negotiated new wage schedules for all classifications, resulting in an average wage increase upon ratification of more than 20% across the board.

Based in control rooms located in Folsom and Lincoln, these workers are the nerve center of the power grid serving 80% of California and portions of Nevada, which comprises one-third of the Western Interconnection. CAISO facilitates over 28,000 market transactions every day to ensure enough power is on hand to meet demand.

The workers at CAISO first began their union organizing effort in August of 2020, mainly driven by a lack of wage parity — both internally, and with workers doing similar jobs for other employers. The campaign picked up steam in summer of 2021, and the workers voted to join IBEW 1245 in autumn of that year.

The IBEW 1245 team first met with

CAISO representatives on February 15, 2022 to begin negotiating the initial agreement. The parties met over 40 times throughout 2022 and early 2023 until finally reaching a comprehensive tentative agreement on Feb. 9, 2023.

Due to critical nature of work performed by our newly organized members, both parties shared a mutual interest in creating an agreement that recognized their value to CAISO, and ensured that CAISO could retain them, while also attracting the most qualified new employees to fill vacant positions created through attrition.

On Feb. 15, 2023, one year to the day from when the parties first began bargaining, the IBEW 1245 members ratified the newly negotiated tentative

agreement. CAISO and IBEW 1245 are excited to continue working collaboratively to build a strong partnership that serves the employees of CAISO and address the challenges in our industry.

The IBEW 1245 negotiating team consisted of Senior Assistant Business Manager (Chief Negotiator) Al Fortier, Assistant Business Manager Dave Sankey, CAISO employee members Eddie Williams, Gabriel Roach, Jacqueline Perlette and Brandon Russell, and myself. Special thanks and appreciation to the bargaining unit members on the committee who worked tirelessly over the last year in helping craft an agreement that everyone can be proud of.

— Gerald Williams,

IBEW 1245 Business Representative



Members of the CAISO bargaining committee discussed the status of negotiations with IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean at the union hall.

“The Union Has Your Back, Even After Retirement” IBEW 1245 Wins Pension Fight at SMUD

In June of 2022, when IBEW 1245 and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) were in general negotiations for a new agreement, the union learned of a recent CalPERS audit that had determined that a lump sum payment from the previous agreement was not being considered pensionable by the employer. The committee quickly did the math and determined that some 43 recently retired 1245 members were having their pension payments wrongfully reduced, between 40 dollars a month and 400 dollars a month — for life. In addition to the lump sum issue, the clothing allowance was also found to be incorrect, resulting in additional reductions in pension payments to our former members.

The bargaining committee asked SMUD management about the pension reductions, and the employer

replied that it was a CalPERS problem, due to their rules on reporting the income. Several of the bargaining committee members had also been a part of the previous round of negotiations, and had kept very detailed notes. When the committee reviewed the various documents from the last round of bargaining, they found a letter from CalPERS, giving the approval for the lump sum to be included in the pension calculation — so the committee went to the 1245 union leadership for help on the matter.

Given that the impacted individuals were no longer members of the union, 1245 was unable to resolve the matter in the usual manner. Business Manager Bob Dean and the Executive Board made the decision to hire outside counsel to represent our former members; the cost was completely borne by 1245.

After months of fighting, appeals, meetings, and delayed hearings, the union ultimately prevailed on behalf of the retirees, and we are now in the process of making them whole in all ways. They have been receiving the money that was taken from them, as well as new calculations for all future pension payments with the complete amount that they were owed.

1245 Bargaining Committee member Corey Smith shared his appreciation for what 1245 did on behalf of the retirees. “Great job on the union’s end, paying for the lawyer and getting it done,” he said, expressing his thanks to Bob Dean for demonstrating strong leadership. “This further proves why we stay in the union — because the union has your back, even after retirement.”

— Lou Mennel,

IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Powering the Future IBEW 1245 Members Upgrade Transmission System to Accommodate Green Energy Revolution

PG&E GC crews upgrade a transmission line near Oakdale.

IBEW 1245 members are on the forefront of the green energy revolution, and one of the critical first steps involves upgrading our aging transmission system so it can handle the influx of alternative energy resources.

But replacing transmission infrastructure is no small or simple task — it takes a very specific kind of skillset and training, along with close attention to detail, dedication, perseverance, meticulous planning and a safety-first attitude.

All of those attributes were on full display when the *Utility Reporter* caught up with an IBEW 1245 crew from PG&E GC line as they were working on a big transmission project near Oakdale.

“Our job was to set 146 new TSPs [tubular steel poles] and reconductor 23 miles of wire to triple the ampacity from Bellota Sub to Warnerville Sub,”



explained Justin Norwood, a 22-year member of IBEW 1245 who works for PG&E as a GC subforeman. “We’re tripling the ampacity to the substations for future Green Energy projects, and so we can get more power from Helms [hydro-power plant] down through the valley.”

When most people think of electric wires, they typically imagine the thin kind they might see in or around a home

or building, but transmission wire is completely different. For one, it’s much, much bigger and heavier — which makes it incredibly challenging to work with. It takes immense knowledge, specialized equipment and expertise to get the wire at the right tension so it doesn’t vibrate and break in the wind, or swing into the other phases.

Norwood went on to explain how, when working on transmission towers and lines, he often refers back to his reference manuals to verify each tower’s specs so he knows precisely how much it can bear. With that knowledge, Norwood can ensure his crew is equipped with everything they need to perform the work safely and effectively.

“My job is to keep my crew safe. And how I keep them safe is I make sure they have the right lines out. We have the right non-test. We



GC Line Sub-Foreman Justin Norwood



Tubular steel poles like the one pictured here are around 175ft tall, and roughly 106,000lbs, or 53 US tons, with concrete footing around 30ft deep. This pole is good for six broken 1113 phases, and for full dead end tension if all six phases on one side of the structure are lost.



have the right tools. We have the right trucks. We have the right helicopters. We have the right presses,” Norwood said. “There are so many special tools that this wire takes, that this job takes, that you can’t just grab. You need to plan it all, and it takes months to plan.”

Norwood has linework in his blood. His father, Jim, and uncle, John, both worked in the trade for more than 45 years. Another uncle, Jeff, spent more than 20 years with PG&E, and two of his cousins are also working in the trade.

Like all IBEW journeyman linemen, Norwood started his career with a five-year apprenticeship program — training that has proven to be invaluable, especially when it comes to keeping his co-workers safe on the job.

“There is risk in what we do, but what we do is all centered around getting my guys home the same way that they came,” said Norwood.

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245
Communications Director
Photos by John Storey



The Local 1245 delegation at the 2023 EWMC leadership conference



“Healing and Building Through Solidarity” at the 2023 EWMC Leadership Conference

The IBEW Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) held its 33rd annual leadership conference in Denver, CO during Martin Luther King Jr weekend. This was the first in-person conference since 2020; for the past two years, the conference was held virtually.

This year’s theme, “Healing and Building Through Solidarity,” focused on having tough conversations to grow and strengthen our IBEW family. The leadership within EWMC acknowledged that, in order for the IBEW to expand, it must address fundamental issues that plague our membership.

Twenty IBEW 1245 members fully participated in pre-conference activities, community service, plenary sessions, and leadership workshops. Our delegation included 1245 Staff, members of the Executive Board, a member of the Advisory Council, and Organizing Stewards.

A Day of Giving

The first day of the conference kicked



Local 1245 delegates volunteering at the Denver Inner City Parish

off at sunrise as delegates were dispatched to various community service assignments. EWMC strategically selects Martin Luther King’s birthday weekend for the conference dates to commemorate Dr. King’s servant leadership.

Through community service, EWMC’s goal is to leave the hosting city in a better position than when attendees arrived.

Organizing Stewards took part in



Local 1245 delegates volunteered at The Gathering Place.



1245’s Rene Cruz Martinez at the podium

painting the interior of the Denver Inner City Parish. Reflecting on his volunteerism, Organizing Steward Quentin Hunter said, “It was just a different experience helping people who live over a thousand miles away, but it was even better to do it with my brothers and sisters of the IBEW from near and far.”

Assistant Business Manager Rene Cruz Martinez and Staff Organizer Charlotte Stevens helped sort clothing and goods at The Salvation Army while 1245 Admin Asst/Building Manager Tonya Alston and Business Representative Liz McNinis volunteered at The Gathering Place, a wrap-around service organization for women, transgender individuals, and children impacted by marginalization and oppression.

Executive Board members spread themselves out amongst various community organizations: Del Norte Neighborhood Development, The Lambuth Family Center, and The Second Chance Center, a premier re-entry program.

In one day, EWMC members volunteered over 2,000 hours of labor and resources to the Denver community.

Sharing, Growing, and Healing

In his first appearance as International President of IBEW, Kenneth ‘Coop’ Cooper spoke about the mission of the IBEW and *IBEW Strong*, the union’s diversity, inclusion, and equity initiative.

Three Organizing Steward Leads —

Brandon Fosselman, Alvin Dayoan, and Foster Goree — were part of the Sergeant-At-Arms team at the EWMC, a role that includes maintaining order of the conference, checking credentials at the door, and escorting distinguished guests.

“Escorting President Cooper to the stage and the level of respect that people showed to the three of us for serving as Sergeant-At-Arms was my biggest highlight,” said Brandon Fosselman. “It is something I am proud of and look forward to doing again in the future.”

A panel discussion, *Politics & Legislative Action NOW!*, was led by IBEW Government Affairs Department representatives who explained the importance of staying politically involved. Assistant Business Manager Rene Cruz Martinez was called on short notice to speak at the podium where he laid out the victories and legislative actions Local 1245 accomplished recently for its members: retaining employment at PG&E during bankruptcy, higher wages for vegetation management members, and extending the life of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant.

“This is the work that we have been living and breathing over the last couple of years and it was easy to present with no prior preparation,” he said.

1245’s Organizing Stewards continued to represent our local with great honor



Alvin Dayoan, Foster Goree, and Brandon Fosselman represent 1245 as Sergeants-At-Arms.

and integrity, showcasing the skills they learned through the Organizing Steward Program. Alvin Dayoan assisted Jammi Ouellette, Assistant to International President, in a presentation for the Professional and Industrial (P&I) Caucus.

"I was delighted to participate and share our Organizing Steward program's best practices while representing Local 1245," said Dayoan.

EWMC Solano County Chapter President and Organizing Steward Lead Laquania 'Que' Thompson presented her chapter president's report eloquently, with details of the chapter's activities from the previous year.

Political, civic, and labor leaders took to the stage to share their knowledge and personal stories. The highlight for many of the delegates was keynote speaker, Dr. Keith Dempsey, who led a powerful session on mental health and wellness. He shared that our industry has a high rate of stress, anxiety, and depression. Furthermore, accidental death numbers pale in comparison to the suicide rate.

When Dr. Dempsey addressed the delegation, many members were moved to share their interactions with co-workers and employers, and the impact those interactions have on their daily work lives and their families.

"Hearing testimony after testimony from my siblings in the room and responses from Dr. Dempsey was an eye opener," reflected Quentin Hunter. "It was a tearjerker ... everyone, including myself, was crying."

"This year the topic of mental health was much needed as displayed by those brave souls who got up and told their story. It really hit home for me on several levels," reported Business Representative Liz McInnis.

"Dr. Dempsey did something you don't see every day and you may never see again. He spoke on wellness and therapy, things that people of color typically do not participate in," said Brandon Fosselman. "Breakthrough after breakthrough as people spoke on their struggles and reached for help."

Moved by Dr. Dempsey's session, Organizing Steward Lead Brenda Balcazar had her own personal breakthrough. "I realized that I was shutting my son down when he was trying to tell me his story and his struggles...I felt like going straight home to tell my son 'I am sorry that I didn't give you the opportunity to share your story with me.' I was prepared to attend the EWMC conference to learn new skills and tools to be a better union member. I was not prepared to attend the EWMC conference to become a bet-

ter mother!"

"We needed this stark, emotionally raw reminder that our mental, physical, and emotional well-being does not have to suffer in exchange for our chosen professions," remarked Alston.

Although every issue cannot be resolved over one weekend, the recognition and resources offered started the process.

After a very intense and emotionally raw plenary session, moving on with the rest of the program was challenging. However, a lunch with time to be mindful and self-reflective provided the reset the attendees needed to move on to the next phase — workshops.

Leadership & Learning

Retired Sr. Assistant Business Manager and former EWMC National Recording Secretary Dorothy Fortier facilitated a workshop, *Know the Rules of the Game*, which was designed to enhance knowledge of parliamentary procedures.

"I took her class and she built up my knowledge on bylaws, constitution, and Robert's Rules of Order. I plan to put those skills to use while attending union meetings," said Quentin Hunter.

Organizing Steward Lead Donny Davis says of the workshop: "Being taught basic laws and policies of the IBEW was priceless."

Influential Leadership was another powerful workshop attended by Organizing Staff and Stewards which focused on establishing a learning and leadership development program and improving leadership skills.

"I enjoyed this workshop as it gave me the tools to develop my personal mission statement," exclaimed Que Thompson.

Union Strong, Union Proud

Every EWMC conference is a family reunion with a purpose. The camaraderie and fellowship seemed to deepen at this conference which only makes 1245 stronger.

"This year's conference was like no other. It showcased the true value of the brotherhood and sisterhood in the IBEW. It showed me solidarity, compassion, and resiliency — all in four days," reflected Cruz Martinez.

"The group that attended this EWMC conference bonded on another level. We are truly family," proclaimed Fosselman. "Relationships were built that will last a lifetime."

— Charlotte Stevens, Staff Organizer and EWMC Delegate



Que Thompson speaks to the delegation as EWMC Solano County Chapter President.

Two PG&E Classifications Join IBEW 1245 with Unanimous "Yes" Votes



PG&E training and simulation specialists are all smiles after winning their IBEW 1245 union election on February 2.

Employees of two unrepresented classifications at Pacific Gas & Electric have recently voted to become represented by IBEW Local 1245. The electrical quality control (or QC) specialists won their election on Oct. 5 of last year, while the training and simulation specialists won theirs on Feb. 2, 2023. Both groups voted unanimously to be accreted into the existing physical bargaining unit at the company.

The QC specialist position is relatively new, created by the company in 2021 to review reports from field inspectors for accuracy and thoroughness. They are headquartered throughout PG&E's service territory. When the group approached the union about organizing, there were only four specialists, including one lineman on a rotation, yet there were eleven unfilled positions. The position requires a lineman background, the specialists explained, but few linemen have been willing to leave the bargaining unit to take the job. As a result, contractors were filling a portion of that workload gap.

The training and simulation specialists provide training to apprentice operators and other classifications and are headquartered at the Vacaville grid control center. They also provide NERC-related continuing education to transmission operators. Late last year, a member of the group reached out to Transmission System Dispatcher Mike Tilden to find out what it would take to bring the group into the IBEW bargaining unit. Tilden, who is also an organizing steward, helped arrange a meeting for

them with the Local's organizers.

Both units consist of former IBEW members who are familiar with the benefits of union representation. They organized to have a greater say in managing the scope of their duties and workloads, wage transparency and predictability, and in determining where their classifications fit into lines of progression. Though the company declined to voluntarily recognize each unit's unanimous support for organizing, the union and company were able to agree to the details of their NLRB elections without issue.

The elections were conducted by mail, which allows for greater privacy and convenience to voters but also comes with the possibility of ballots getting lost in the mail. For the training and simulation specialists, Tilden again assisted the organizing team by following up with his pro-union peers to ensure they received their ballots.

These two workgroups will be guided through negotiations by Senior Assistant Business Manager Bob Gerstle and their future business reps. In the three months since their election, the QC specialists have significantly grown in number now that applicants know the position will be part of the 1245 unit. For the training and simulation specialists, they will begin drafting bargaining proposals as soon as the NLRB certifies the results of their election. The Local 1245 organizing team congratulates both workgroups and wishes them success in bargaining.

— Rick Thompson, IBEW 1245 Lead Organizer



The IBEW 1245 Organizing Stewards gathered at Weakley Hall for the first training of 2023.

“Being Brilliant at the Basics” Organizing Stewards Kick Off 2023 Training Series

On Saturday, Mar. 4, 2023, nearly 100 IBEW 1245 organizing stewards packed the IBEW 1245 Union Hall for the first in-person organizing training of the year, themed ‘Being Brilliant at the Basics.’

“The energy in the room was organic and was felt throughout the day,” said IBEW 1245 Assistant Business Manager and Organizer Rene Cruz Martinez. “The engagement and the comradery were like no other. This is what the brotherhood and sisterhood is all about.”

To kick off the day, Organizing Steward Lead Danielle Bonds introduced Business Manager Bob Dean, who riveted the room with his personal story that led him to his current leadership position at IBEW 1245. He proceeded to detail a myriad of recent union victories — including the ongoing efforts to protect hundreds of IBEW 1245 jobs by extending the life of Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP). These successes were made possible, in part, by the mobilization of organizing stewards and staff last year.

Dean also chronicled the litany of

anticipated battles as billions of dollars pour into our region for fire-hardening and undergrounding projects. He shared that sometimes members ask him, ‘When is the fight going to be over?’ and he offered the group his candid response:

“The fight’s going on for the rest of our lives. It’s never-ending. And it’s a righteous fight. It’s a rare thing, to be able to affect others’ lives,” he said to the room full of organizing stewards who volunteered to attend the weekend training. “I’m humbled by you all showing up to today. I salute you. I appreciate you.”

“Our power as a union comes from the work that you do,” IBEW 1245 Political Director Hunter Stern added. “Keeping the lights on, keeping the gas flowing, keeping our customers informed... The services that you provide are essential services, even more so since the pandemic. It helps immensely when it’s time to advocate for policies to protect our work.”

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After the opening presentations, Cruz Martinez introduced a video, produced

back in 2014, on the origins of the Organizing Steward program, featuring the first class of 28 organizing stewards. The video is now being used across the IBEW nationally, demonstrating Local 1245’s powerful, intergenerational member-organizing program.

“The [1245 organizing steward] jacket means something. You represent the best of the best,” declared Staff Organizer Charlotte Stevens.

“We have to showcase our union, credential ourselves as proud IBEW 1245 union members,” added Brother Cruz Martinez. “We are all the union.”

But how do we begin?

“Start with a conversation, and share how the union changed your life,” said Staff Organizer Rick Thompson, leading into the first break-out session of the day: Describing the union difference from your own personal perspective and experience. Some of the organizing stewards volunteered to share their heartfelt stories with the room.

“I come from a neighborhood where it wasn’t safe to walk outside — [this union job] gave us the financial ability to get out of there... Not only that. My mom is really sick, and because of IBEW, I have the flexibility that allows me to take her to her appointments.” — **Organizing Steward Maria Caratachea Echeverria**

“This job got me peace and comfort, and I can take care of my family of 4. It’s all because of the union.” — **Organizing Steward Robert Delgado Bustos**

“On April 22, 2016 I was fired — accused of doing things I didn’t do. The union fought tirelessly for me from April to October. And then [Business Rep] Gracie Nunez called me. ‘I have good news and bad news. The good news is you got your job back. The bad news is I don’t know your start date.’ The union fought really hard. That’s why I’m here.” — **Organizing Steward Jade Phillips**

“Once I got a union job, it made it possible for my wife to stay home and raise our kids. That created a foundation for

our family. That’s the great thing that I could provide financially.” — **Organizing Steward Lead Arnaldo Lizarraga**

“Being able to be there for my mom and still have a job is everything to me. Being able to provide for her... knowing that I can be part of an organization that can help people, means everything to me.” — **Organizing Steward Ellen “Lanie” Richardson**

“I’ve been a single mom most of my life, which meant I was working minimum wage; always had a roommate... thanks to having this union job, I can afford the mortgage on my home.” — **Organizing Steward Nicci Bissett**

■ ■ ■

Following a series of presentations from shop stewards, safety stewards, and the Solano Chapter of IBEW’s Electric Worker Minority Caucus (EWMC), the group watched a highlight reel, produced by the organizing team, featuring many of 1245’s recent campaigns and successes. Cruz Martinez invited those in the room to offer their own highlights as well.

Organizing Steward Donny Davis shared how much he enjoyed campaigning with the IBEW 1245 office staff, and the pride he feels in helping to get 1245 ally Rosanna Herber re-elected to the Board at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (where IBEW 1245 represents more than 200 workers).

Several organizing stewards remarked that people from outside of 1245 often express admiration and appreciation for the 1245 organizing stewards. Organizing Steward Kristen Rasmussen shared that a representative of the National AFL-CIO told her, “You have the best union in the country!”

Brother Quentin Hunter added that, “The biggest take away for me was not just working to get people into office that support [organized] labor, but the ability to build a 1245 family ... I brought my kids, and they now have new aunts and uncles. My son’s door is covered by 1245



Staff Organizer Rick Thompson

stickers.”

In the final exercise of the day, stewards gathered by region to plan social and community events in their respective areas. Event ideas included bowling tournaments, parades, BBQs, community college job fairs, summertime water balloon activities and more.

The Sacramento Organizing Leads shared how they have organized get-togethers that also serve as opportunities to give back to less fortunate members in their community.

“In 2022, Alvin, Danielle, and I decided to start a volunteering program,” said Organizing Lead Donny Davis. “We each chose a program, and I chose to support Ticket To Dream. This Foundation supports over 200 foster care

facilities across the U.S, by providing brand-new nonperishable items to kids and young adults. As of now, we’ve participated in two volunteer events. Both events were fun, and very rewarding.”

“IBEW 1245 does a lot for members — and we appreciate that — but why not be

a helping hand to people who are struggling?” added Danielle Bonds. “We’re truly blessed in our everyday lives, and we wanted to show that by being a blessing to others. We love our IBEW 1245 organizing steward program, and we felt we do a lot when it comes to helping our

IBEW 1245 members ... so why not use the same tools and help other brothers and sisters outside our organization?”

At the end of the day, the organizing stewards left with a renewed sense of purpose and organizing skills that they will soon put into action.

“A lot of work goes into planning a training, but I must say our team of staff organizers put our heart and soul into making sure we delivered for our stewards,” said Cruz Martinez. “It is events like this that keep us going and motivated to keep fighting the good fight. Organizing is essential for bringing people together and accomplishing great things!”

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



Business Manager Bob Dean



“Claiming our Power, Protecting our Democracy”

Highlights from the AFL-CIO MLK Civil and Human Rights Conference

Four Organizing Stewards proudly represented IBEW 1245 at the 25th annual AFL-CIO Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Civil and Human Rights Conference, a four-day convention held in Washington D.C. This year’s conference was centered around the theme of “Claiming our Power, Protecting our Democracy.”

The conference honors the life and legacy of Dr. King, bringing more than 700 trade unionists together during the MLK holiday to volunteer for a day of community service, listen to motivational speakers during plenary sessions, participate in workshops, and taking action in the streets for the MLK Peace Walk and Parade.

“It was an exciting experience. I was humbled to meet many members from different unions, backgrounds, and trades,” said IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward Lead Joseph Loc Hoang. “From feeding the less fortunate, to attending the different workshops, it was a rewarding experience.”

“The main highlight that really stood out to me was the workshop ‘The Fight for Workers’ Rights,’ which was held on the topic of battling to unionize Starbucks,” IBEW 1245 Organizing Lead Thomas Mora reported from the conference. “I will now order my coffee name as ‘Union Strong’ instead of my own name. The gala was very fun, and the young leadership meeting was a hit. They had a DJ and young union reps speak about how the union has helped them.”

“We all play an important and different role in the fight for civil rights and equality. We don’t realize the impact we, as one person, can have on someone,” said Organizing Steward Lead Aileen Zuehlke. “We need to continue to have these conversations and continue to get others involved.”



Delegation to AFL-CIO 2023 MLK Civil and Human Rights Conference. From left – Thomas Mora, Roberto Delgado Bustos III, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, Joseph Loc Hoang, and Aileen Zuehlke

“I met amazing people including our IBEW sister and the first elected woman leader of the AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, as well as brothers and sisters from other unions,” exclaimed newly appointed Organizing Steward Roberto Delgado-Bustos III. “Hearing young people trying to unionize like Starbucks Workers United and their struggle, how their voices have been silenced and jobs terminated just trying to unionize...everything made me reflect on how lucky each one of us are to be part of our union.”



To view a video recap of the conference, visit <https://youtu.be/RkdFgsxoXOU>.

Vegetation Management Work Ramps Up After Rocky First Quarter

The first quarter of 2023 was challenging and eventful for IBEW 1245's Vegetation Management (VM) members and staff, stemming from unusual weather patterns and the 2022 year-end budget and consolidation efforts made by PG&E, both of which had a direct impact in some of the areas we represent. We are proud of our members and staff for showing up to work every day to meet the demands of the industry and remaining positive professionals when times get tough.

Fortunately, PG&E has begun ramping back up for LCTT this quarter, and we continue to work with members and contractors as a resource to provide opportunities for those who have been displaced. There is a significant increase in areas like Santa Cruz (Community Trees needs 16 crews), Morgan Hill (Ready Response LLC needs 50 tree workers), and Redding (Maximus needs 40+ tree workers immediately). For more information about these opportunities, please reach out to your Business Rep.

The new contractors on PG&E property present a few contract challenges, and we are in continuous correspondence with contractors over contractual issues, safety investigations, grievance reviews and possible arbitration cases.

There are contractors who are willfully wanting out of paying the LINECO rates as to somehow save money. The union has no appetite to change what has already been negotiated, and this plan is tailor-made for an ever-changing tree industry.

We are also seeing a lot of contractors that are in violation of EPR reporting errors, or trying to circumvent the rules and the members are reporting to us sometimes months later that benefits have not been paid. Please always look at your pay stubs and familiarize yourself with your contractual pay structure.

When requesting a grievance, please notify a steward or Business Rep immediately; and be prepared to submit a statement of occurrence for your side of the story (the who, what, when, where, why and what you feel the remedy should be). We encourage all members to be familiar with Weingarten rights and the contract you work under, as the grievance timelines and steps vary by contract.

Union meetings continue to be a challenge, with low attendance in some areas stemming from many of the same issues identified above. While we love to see our members at Union Meetings or in the field, we ask that if you have specific questions regarding contracts or contractors, please reach out to us directly. Our VM staff is working tirelessly on behalf of the membership, but please remember that each Business Rep serves more than 1,000 members. We encourage a culture of mutual accountability and respect.

On January 7, 2023, there was an

unfortunate work accident en route to Manchester, CA that claimed the life of Foreman Edgar Castillo (42) and seriously injured co-worker Tree Trimmer Jose Hernandez (28) while they were performing storm work for Mountain F. Enterprises. Brother Castillo is survived by his fiancé and five children. Brother Hernandez is still recovering from injuries sustained. GoFundMe accounts have been set up for both families <https://www.gofundme.com/f/funeral-expenses-for-edgar-castillo> and <https://gofund.me/927da40e>, and PG&E has organized a sale for employees to donate time on behalf of Edgar Castillo's family. (See In Memoriam on pg 35.) We are devastated by this loss, but grateful for the outpouring of support from all the members. We will continue to stay in contact with both families during this time of mourning and healing.

There has been an increase in vehicle incidents, work practices and safety violations. We must be more vigilant while on the job; the number one cause of preventable accidents is "complacency." The "Keep the Clearance" peer-to-peer safety committee is building momentum to bring more safety awareness to the members. Talk with your Business Rep if you wish to get involved.

There's still time to take advantage of the federal grant money designated for LCTT members to obtain or upgrade to a Class A CDL Certification. The Cal/Nev JATC has announced a six-month extension of the grant program. Members now have until September to apply for the \$4,600 grant to get their Class A, which presents excellent opportunities for career advancement. Please reach out to your Business Rep for more info.

The Cal/Nev JATC is also progressing with the LCTT Apprenticeship Program, and hopes to finalize discussions with PG&E to raise the bar in evaluations, upgrades and training as the premiere training program. Members can register for the program online or by phone.

We are excited to announce the return of IBEW 1245's "FRIENDSHIP * UNITY * SOLIDARITY" Soccer Tournament! The tournament and family day is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 2023, at the Mistlin Sports Center in Ripon. There will be a BBQ, raffles, pinatas and games for the kids — all are welcome to come and enjoy the festivities. For the first time in 1245 history, our Maintenance members have assembled a team for this year's tournament, and we're pleased to welcome this newly organized group to the 1245 family.

If the Tournament Captains' meeting is any indication of what the event will be like, then we are in for a special treat. A special thanks to 1245 staffers Eileen Purcell and Liz McInnis, the LCTT business reps, and of course our members/team captains, for organizing this special event. Photos and highlights from the event will appear in the next edition

of the *Utility Reporter*.

Vegetation Management Inspectors

There have been some changes at PG&E with new incoming contractors for VMI work. Our team continues to work with our local admin to find temporary work through the Hiring Hall for job opportunities at PG&E that could become permanent, as more of this work will be done in-house. There is a process for pre-hire qualifications and a mandatory pre-employment test and background check. VMI workers in some areas are considering organizing their own units as they work under a slightly different contract than their LCTT counterparts.

Pole Test & Treat

IBEW 1245 Pole Test and Treat members have been meeting on the second Tuesday of every month, and have organized Unit Officers to solidify themselves as a legitimate Unit to be approved by the Executive Board. They are currently 300 strong and have been very hungry for representation. This Unit has great local leaders that will usher in a new era of strength and solidarity for Local 1245.

1245 sent the Pole Test and Treat contract back to the table and we reached a new agreement with the companies. In January, the union spent time with the members to go over the contract and explain to them the difference between hourly wages and total package. Once they understood that there is a lot more than just wages in their total package, the new agreement went out for another vote and it passed overwhelmingly.

These members have endured much traveling this last quarter to Oregon and Washington, however PG&E has ramped back up with local delineation work, and many of our members are starting to come back. PT&T Contractors Davey and Osmose are discussing implementation of fire retardant PPE, as is required by PG&E and CA State Law. More details to come after further discussions.

Newly Organized LCTT Contractors

- New Life Tree Service
- Trees LLC (Back at 1245 after an absence)

Northern Area

It was a very frustrating first quarter in this area. Between contractors switching areas and PG&E not releasing 2023 work, there was a lot of confusion for the members. Wright Tree in the Humboldt area was the least complicated since they retained the contract for that area; the members there were only laid off for a few weeks while Wright



waited for PG&E to issue out the new work for 2023. They are up and running now, and seem to be making progress.

Atlas took over Lake County and they are still slowly bringing on employees. The members there were very confused about Atlas's testing requirements for employment. In past years, whenever a new contractor assumed an area, there was no pre-employment testing required. Now, most companies are running their new employees through an evaluation process. The same is happening in the North Valley, where Maximus is the new contractor for the area. All members that are transferring to the new company are being evaluated at their training facility to see if they pass the basic tree climbing skills and knowledge assessment before they are hired on. In the North Valley, members are also being sent over to Oroville to go through the N.A.T.S. evaluation required by PG&E to further test their ability and safety knowledge. If someone fails one of these tests, then the company is not offering them a position. This too has caused a lot of confusion with the members, since it's a sharp change from the past. We have been working with these new companies daily to get our members on-boarded as soon as possible. There is a definite learning curve that these companies are going through, since this is the first time that they have been a prime contractor in an area. Things are on an upswing right now, and we are looking forward to a busy spring.

We received a lot of rain and snow during the first quarter. These storms are something that we haven't had in years, and resulted in a lot of overtime for the members out in the field. A lot of them were off work for so long and the bills were piling up, so the overtime opportunities were welcome by the members. In this last round of storms, we had no injuries reported in the

continued on page 14



Foreman Reinaldo Andrade from ArborWorks

Photo by John Storey

January – June 2023

Aumentan los trabajos de Manejo de la Vegetación después de un primer trimestre incierto

El primer trimestre de 2023 fue desafiante y lleno de acontecimientos para los miembros de Manejo de la Vegetación (VM) del IBEW 1245 y el personal, debido a patrones climáticos inusuales y al presupuesto y los esfuerzos de consolidación de fin de año realizados por PG&E en 2022, ambos con un impacto directo en algunas de las zonas que representamos. Estamos orgullosos de nuestros miembros y personal por presentarse a trabajar todos los días para satisfacer las demandas de la industria y seguir siendo profesionales con una actitud positiva en tiempos difíciles.

Afortunadamente, este trimestre PG&E ha comenzado a incrementar el trabajo de los podadores de árboles para el despeje de líneas, y seguimos trabajando como recurso para los miembros y contratistas, para brindarles oportunidades a aquellos que han sido destituidos. Hay un aumento significativo en zonas como Santa Cruz (Community Trees necesita 16 cuadrillas), Morgan Hill (Ready Response LLC necesita 50 trabajadores de árboles) y Redding (Maximus necesita más de 40 trabajadores de árboles inmediatamente). Para obtener más información sobre estas oportunidades, comunícate con tu representante de negocios.

Los nuevos contratistas en las instalaciones propiedad de PG&E presentan algunos desafíos contractuales, y mantenemos una correspondencia continua con los contratistas sobre temas contractuales, investigaciones de seguridad, resolución de quejas y posibles casos de arbitraje.

Hay contratistas que deliberadamente tratan de no pagar las tarifas de LINECO para ahorrar dinero de alguna manera. El sindicato no está interesado en cambiar lo que ya se ha negociado, y este plan está hecho a la medida para una industria de árboles en constante cambio.

También estamos viendo muchos contratistas que no están cumpliendo el requisito de informar sobre errores de EPR o tratando de eludir las normas, y los miembros nos informan, a veces varios meses después, que los beneficios no se han pagado. Revisa siempre tus talones de pago y familiarízate con tu estructura de pago contractual.

Al plantear una queja, por favor notifica inmediatamente a un representante de negocios; y debes estar preparado para presentar una declaración de tu versión sobre el incidente (quién, qué, cuándo, dónde, por qué y cuál crees que debe ser el remedio). Animamos a todos los miembros a estar familiarizados con los derechos de Weingarten y el contrato bajo el cual trabajan, ya que los plazos y los pasos para quejas varían según el contrato.

Las reuniones sindicales siguen siendo un desafío, con una baja asistencia en algunas zonas como resultado de

muchos de los mismos problemas identificados anteriormente. Si bien nos encanta ver a nuestros miembros en reuniones sindicales o en el campo, te pedimos que si tienes preguntas específicas sobre contratos o contratistas, te comuniques con nosotros directamente. Nuestro personal de VM está trabajando incansablemente en nombre de la membresía, pero recuerda que cada representante de negocios representa a más de 1000 miembros. Fomentamos una cultura de responsabilidad y respeto mutuo.

El 7 de enero de 2023, hubo un desafortunado accidente de trabajo en camino a Manchester, CA que cobró la vida del capataz Edgar Castillo (42), y donde resultó gravemente herido el compañero de trabajo podador de árboles José Hernández (28) mientras realizaban trabajos por las tormentas para Mountain F. Enterprises. El hermano Castillo deja a su prometida y cinco hijos. El hermano Hernández todavía se está recuperando de las lesiones sufridas. Se han creado cuentas GoFundMe para ambas familias <https://www.gofundme.com/f/funeral-expenses-for-edgar-castillo> y <https://gofund.me/927da40e>, y PG&E ha organizado una venta para que los empleados donen tiempo en nombre de la familia de Edgar Castillo. Estamos profundamente consternados por esta pérdida, pero agradecidos por el torrente de apoyo de todos los miembros. Continuaremos en contacto con ambas familias durante estos momentos de luto y sanación.

Ha habido un aumento en incidentes de vehículos, prácticas de trabajo y violaciones de seguridad. Debemos estar más atentos mientras estamos en el trabajo; la causa número uno de accidentes evitables es el “exceso de confianza.” El comité de seguridad entre compañeros “Mantenga la Distancia” está tomando impulso para crear más conciencia de seguridad entre los miembros. Comunícate con tu representante de negocios si deseas participar.

Todavía hay tiempo para aprovechar los fondos disponibles de la subvención federal designados para los miembros podadores de árboles para el despeje de líneas, para obtener o actualizar la Certificación de Licencia Comercial para conducir (CDL) Clase A. Cal/Nev JATC ha anunciado una prórroga de seis meses del programa de subvenciones. Ahora los miembros tienen plazo hasta septiembre para solicitar la subvención de \$4,600 para obtener su licencia comercial Clase A, lo cual representa excelentes oportunidades para el avance profesional. Comunícate con tu representante de negocios para obtener más información.

Cal/Nev JATC también está avanzando con el Programa de Aprendices de LCTT, y espera finalizar las discusiones con PG&E para elevar el nivel de

las evaluaciones, actualizaciones y capacitación, y convertirse en el principal programa de capacitación. Los miembros pueden inscribirse en el programa en línea o por teléfono.

¡Estamos muy contentos de anunciar el regreso del Torneo de Fútbol “AMISTAD*UNIDAD*SOLIDARIDAD” del IBEW 1245! El torneo y día familiar están programados para el sábado, 6 de mayo de 2023, en Mistlin Sports Center en Ripon. Habrá una barbacoa, rifas, piñatas y juegos para los niños. Todos están invitados a venir y disfrutar de las festividades. Por primera vez en la historia del 1245, nuestros miembros de Mantenimiento han formado un equipo para el torneo de este año, y nos complace dar la bienvenida a este grupo recién organizado a la familia 1245.

Si la reunión de capitanes del torneo es un indicio de cómo será el evento, entonces nos espera algo muy especial. Un agradecimiento especial a los empleados de 1245 Eileen Purcell y Liz McInnis, los representantes de negocios de LCTT, y por supuesto a nuestros miembros y capitanes de equipo por organizar este evento especial. Si estás interesado en ser voluntario, por favor comunícate con tu representante de negocios.

Inspectores de Manejo de Vegetación

Se han producido algunos cambios en PG&E como consecuencia de nuevos contratistas para el trabajo de VMI. Nuestro equipo continúa trabajando con nuestro administrador local para encontrar trabajo temporal a través de la sala de contratación (Hiring Hall) para oportunidades de trabajo en PG&E que podrían convertirse en posiciones permanentes, ya que este trabajo se realizará cada vez más internamente. Existe un proceso para las calificaciones de pre-contratación y una prueba de pre-empleo obligatoria y verificación de antecedentes. Los trabajadores de VMI en algunas zonas están considerando organizar sus propias unidades, ya que trabajan bajo un contrato ligeramente diferente que sus contrapartes podadores de árboles para el despeje de líneas.

Pole Test & Treat

Los miembros de IBEW 1245 de Pole Test and Treat se han estado reuniendo el segundo martes de cada mes, y han organizado Oficiales de Unidad para solidificarse como una Unidad legítima para ser aprobada por la Junta Ejecutiva. Actualmente son 300 miembros y han estado ansiosos por tener una representación. Esta Unidad cuenta con excelentes líderes locales que marcarán el comienzo de una nueva era de fortaleza y solidaridad para el Local 1245.

El 1245 envió el contrato Pole Test and Treat de nuevo a la mesa y llegamos a un nuevo acuerdo con las empresas. En enero, el sindicato dedicó tiempo a



los miembros para revisar el contrato y explicarles la diferencia entre los salarios por hora y el paquete total. Una vez que entendieron que su paquete total contiene mucho más que solo salarios, el nuevo acuerdo se sometió de nuevo a votación y fue aprobado abrumadoramente.

Estos miembros han tenido que viajar mucho este último trimestre a Oregón y Washington, sin embargo PG&E ha vuelto a aumentar las actividades de trabajo de delineación local, y muchos de nuestros miembros están comenzando a regresar. Los contratistas de PT&T Davey y Osmose están discutiendo el uso de EPI ignífugo, tal como lo exigen PG&E y la legislación estatal de California. Brindaremos más información después de discusiones adicionales.

Contratistas LCTT recientemente organizados

- New Life Tree Service
- Trees LLC (de regreso en el 1245 después de estar ausentes)

Zona norte

Fue un primer trimestre muy frustrante en esta zona. Los contratistas cambiaban de zona y PG&E no emitía trabajos en 2023, por lo que había mucha confusión entre los miembros. Wright Tree en la zona de Humboldt fue el que tuvo menos complicaciones ya que mantuvieron el contrato para esa zona; los miembros allí solo fueron despedidos por unas pocas semanas mientras Wright esperaba que PG&E emitiera el nuevo trabajo para 2023. Ya están activos y parecen estar avanzando.

A Atlas se le asignó el condado de Lake y todavía están contratando empleados lentamente. Los miembros allí estaban muy confundidos acerca de los requisitos de pruebas de Atlas para el empleo. En los últimos años, cada vez que un nuevo contratista asumía una zona, no se requería ninguna prueba previa al empleo. Ahora, la mayoría de las compañías requieren que sus nuevos empleados se sometan a un proceso de evaluación. Lo mismo ocurre en North Valley, donde Maximus es el nuevo contratista de la zona. Todos los miembros que se están transfiriendo a la nueva compañía están siendo evaluados en sus instalaciones de capacitación para ver si pasan las pruebas de habilidades básicas de trepar árboles y la evaluación de conocimientos antes de ser contratados. En North Valley, los miembros también están siendo enviados a Oroville

continúa en la página 15

Trees, from page 12

Northern Area. This is very good news, especially considering that it had been a while since the crews had done this type of storm work. We keep encouraging everyone to work as safely as possible and stay focused on the task at hand.

This year has started off very slowly, and with a lot of issues, but we are expecting things to pick up very quickly in these next few months and we should be back to normal operations by the end of next quarter.

— Ray Banfill, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Central East Area

This first quarter has been the most difficult quarter so far in my career. The end of 2022 was extremely hard for the membership working in Vegetation Management due to the shift in contracts, layoffs, and members having to find a new home under new contractors. The workforce in the Central East is slowly getting back up to speed for most areas. There are still some contractors who have yet to get back on their feet, while some other contractors never recovered from the shift. Although a change took place geographically throughout all PG&E areas, the trees don't stop growing and the power lines still need to be patrolled.

On the VMI side, things have stabilized for most of my areas. Some concerns have come up, which we have been able to work out. Alternate work schedules have been the most discussed throughout most of my areas. Most members want the 4-10 work schedule, while the company does not. PG&E has played a role with not allowing the change in some areas, however for most of the areas, it's the contractor who does not have the coverage to man the change. I will continue to meet with as many members as I possibly can, however with the new change coming up, this will become more challenging.

These last few months have had some extreme weather conditions, creating significant challenges for contractors. In all my time in the Tree Industry, I have not seen so many stand-downs due to inclement weather. This is likely due to the high risk and multiple incidents and fatalities which have happened in recent months. It seems that contractors don't want to take any unnecessary risks, and are seeking to limit the chances of anyone getting hurt or worse.

The weather has made traveling to Reno to visit the members there a bit of a challenge. The Asplundh crews are a great group who understand and are willing to reschedule meetings when the weather has been too extreme. The unit meetings there continue to show great participation.

— Francisco Ferreyra,
IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Central West Area

We started the year at a snail's pace, hampered by continuous storms

throughout the entire system. We had Contractors assume new areas, and in some of these areas, we've had to stay on top of the situation to make sure the new contractor acknowledged the hiring process. The other problem was not having enough workers on hand.

In LCTT, we have continued to help our members that were displaced from their original headquarters as they get connected to the new awarding contractor. Some of these cases has been difficult when individuals cannot provide enough documentation or demonstrate their abilities to perform the work. PG&E also implemented changes for contractors in Vegetation Management Inspection. We assisted members in transitioning to the new contractors. In some areas this has been a slug fest, to put it lightly.

The Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) is now operating for Clearance Tree Trimming (LCTT) in Woodland, CA. Members can register for their classes online, with trainings in English or Spanish. All apprentices should be signed up now! Contact your Business Representative to connect with the JATC trainer in your area. Most are bilingual.

At this point, nearly all contractors are ramping back up, and in some areas we may have reached a maximum level of hiring. All lodging and transportation have been eliminated for all Mowbray's Tree Service on PG&E. Notice was given & moved up by the Company, with no contract violation.

We continue to have distractive driving accidents system wide. Everyone needs to focus on the road and their surroundings. Line Strikes have been another problem. We are having too many of these types of incidents.

Grievance activity in this area has remained steady. We just have a few current matters with the contractors.

— Junior Ornelas,
IBEW 1245 Business Rep

Southern Area

Now that the new Pole Test and Treat contract has been approved, we now have monthly Union meetings established for these groups, something that they have never had before. The PT&T members at Davey and Osmose now feel like they have a voice and place in this great union.

The weather during the first quarter led to lots of emergency call-outs, standby crews, and overtime everywhere in the southern area. Some crews were working 16 hours a day, some on standby and out in the field. The harsh weather conditions caused many vehicle accidents, and I have been preaching safety to all members, urging them to remain aware of their surroundings and be careful while driving.

ArborWorks LLC, which has not been providing sick days in accordance with the agreement, says they have modified how they receive their allotment. The employer also want to walk away from paying Lineco Medical Insurance and bring in their own insurance. For my next Labor-Management meeting, I have requested that IBEW 1245 Administrative Staffers Ralph Armstrong and Mark Maumau join us to fix these issues.

I am also having some issues with ACRT regarding ten-hour days. Our members want it, but the company does not.

At Mario's tree service, we're working on fixing issues with layoffs and classifications; there also seems to be a lot dis-

cipline for any little thing (apparently, this is the approach to addressing safety concerns). They have a new Safety Manager, and he is being heavy-handed and quick to discipline without doing a good investigation. I have had some conversations with him and have turned a couple of suspensions around, forcing the company to provide back pay to the employees. PG&E recently stood them down for three days for not completing a Safety report on a rollover that happened last year.

At Davey Tree, some members are being suspended for issues in the field, and the employer is having to send employees to Oroville for assessments to return to work. The members are not happy with the time off being imposed on them; it takes too much time to get assessed and they are not getting paid.

— Abel Sanchez,
IBEW 1245 Business Rep*

**IBEW 1245 Business Rep Abel Sanchez has announced his plans to retire this spring (see full article on pg 38). For the last 10 years, Sanchez has been working with IBEW 1245 vegetation management members in the Southern Area, and has made a significant impact on the tree industry — both as a Journeyman Line Clearance Tree Trimmer, and also as an advocate for the membership. He's best known for his unique smile, friendly demeanor, and willingness to help others. The members are his passion, and he's committed to improving the lives of tree workers. Next to fishing and golf, he loved sharing with all of us his harvest of fruits and vegetables, and best of all were the amazing canned spicy green olives. We have some massive shoes to fill. Thank you, Brother Abel, for years of service!*

IBEW Outside Line Members Jump Into Action to Assist Car Crash Victim

After spending seven days on a storm response assignment in Santa Cruz, two IBEW members working for Underground Electric Construction Company were en route back to Dixon when they came across a single-vehicle accident on Interstate 80 near Vacaville. A Subaru sedan appeared to have made head-on contact with the concrete barrier. The car had severe front-end damage, and was partially encroaching a lane on the interstate, in addition to blocking the entire shoulder. The impact was severe enough that the driver was unable to exit the vehicle.

Upon arriving at the scene, the crew took quick action. They switched on the flashing lights on their work trucks to provide makeshift traffic control for the lane that the damaged car had encroached into, in order to prevent any more vehicles travelling at highway speed from becoming involved in the wreck. Their quick thinking worked, and slowed the normally

bustling traffic to a crawl, allowing other cars to navigate safely around the accident.

Then, the crew noticed that the vehicle had smoke coming from the engine compartment, so IBEW 1245 Groundman Stephen Dungan made the swift decision to grab the fire extinguisher from his truck and put the engine fire out immediately. While Dungan was tending to the fire, Foreman Matt Greene, an IBEW traveling lineman from Local 953, made contact with the driver. By this time, another good Samaritan had also stopped to offer help, and Greene directed them to call 911, while he stayed with the driver, who was in critical condition. The crew remained on the scene and continued to assist in any way that they could, even after emergency services had arrived.

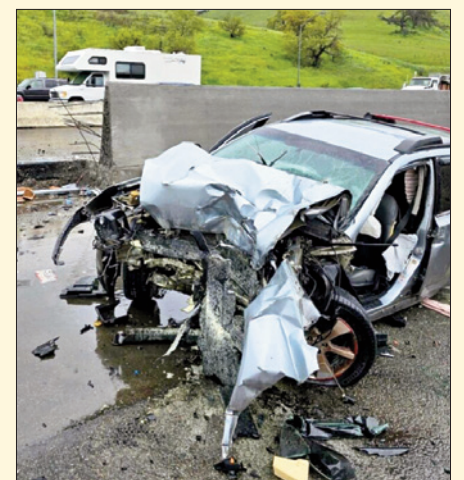
In a gracious email to the Underground Electric Construction team, the City of Vacaville Battalion Chief stated, "These actions most likely

everyday
HEROES

saved the driver's life."

These members made a lasting impact on the community in which we serve, outside of the work they perform day in and day out. Thank you for your selflessness, brothers!

— Ethan Stonecipher,
IBEW 1245 Business Rep



Árboles, from page 13

para realizar la evaluación de N.A.T.S. requerida por PG&E para probar sus habilidades y conocimientos de seguridad. Si alguien falla alguna de estas pruebas, la compañía no los contrata. Esto también ha causado mucha confusión entre los miembros, ya que es un cambio drástico con respecto al pasado. Hemos estado trabajando con estas nuevas compañías diariamente para lograr que nuestros miembros se incorporen lo antes posible. Estas compañías están pasando por una curva de aprendizaje definida, ya que esta es la primera vez que son el contratista principal en una zona. Las cosas están repuntando en este momento, y esperamos que la primavera nos mantenga ocupados.

Durante el primer trimestre hubo mucha lluvia y nieve. No habíamos tenido tormentas así en muchos años, y esto resultó en muchas horas extra en el campo para los miembros. Muchos de ellos habían estado sin trabajo por tanto tiempo que las cuentas se estaban acumulando, por lo que las oportunidades de horas extra fueron bien recibidas por los miembros. En esta última ronda de tormentas, no se reportaron lesiones en la Zona Norte. Esta es una muy buena noticia, especialmente teniendo en cuenta que las cuadrillas no habían realizado este tipo de trabajo de tormenta desde hacía mucho tiempo. Seguimos alentando a todos a trabajar de la manera más segura posible y a mantenerse enfocados en la tarea que nos ocupa.

Este año comenzó muy lentamente, y con muchos problemas, pero esperamos que las cosas repunten muy rápidamente en los próximos meses y deberíamos volver a niveles normales de operación a finales del próximo trimestre.

— Ray Banfill, IBEW 1245
Representante de Negocios

Zona Central Este

Este primer trimestre ha sido el trimestre más difícil en mi carrera hasta ahora. El final de 2022 fue extremadamente difícil para los miembros que trabajan en Manejo de la Vegetación debido al cambio en los contratos, despidos y que los miembros tuvieron que buscar nuevos hogares bajo los nuevos contratistas. La fuerza laboral en la zona Central Este está volviendo a la normalidad en la mayoría de las zonas. Todavía hay algunos contratistas que aún no han regresado a la normalidad, mientras que otros contratistas nunca se recuperaron de los cambios. Aunque se produjo un cambio geográfico en todas las áreas de PG&E, los árboles no dejan de crecer y las líneas eléctricas aún necesitan ser supervisadas.

En el lado de VMI, las cosas se han estabilizado en la mayoría de mis zonas. Han surgido algunas preocupaciones que hemos podido resolver. Los horarios de trabajo alternativos han sido los más discutidos en la mayoría de mis zonas. La mayoría de los miembros quieren el horario de trabajo de 4-10,

Utility Reporter

pero la compañía no. PG&E ha desempeñado un papel al no permitir el cambio en algunas zonas, sin embargo, en la mayoría de las zonas, es el contratista quien no tiene suficiente personal para manejar el cambio. Continuaré reuniéndome con tantos miembros como sea posible, sin embargo, con el nuevo cambio que se avecina, esto presentará un mayor desafío.

En estos últimos meses ha habido condiciones climáticas extremas, creando desafíos significativos para los contratistas. Durante toda mi carrera en la industria de despeje de árboles, nunca había visto tantos trabajos suspendidos debido a las inclemencias del tiempo. Esto se debe probablemente al alto riesgo y múltiples incidentes y muertes que han ocurrido en los últimos meses. Parece que los contratistas no quieren tomar ningún riesgo innecesario, y están tratando de limitar las posibilidades de que alguien se lastime o suceda algo peor.

El clima ha hecho que viajar a Reno para visitar a los miembros allí sea un desafío. Las cuadrillas de Asplundh son un buen grupo que entienden y están dispuestos a reprogramar reuniones cuando el clima ha sido demasiado extremo. Las reuniones de la unidad allí siguen teniendo una gran participación.

— Francisco Ferreyra, IBEW 1245
Representante de Negocios

Zona Central Oeste

Comenzamos el año a paso de tortuga debido a dificultades por continuas tormentas en todo el sistema. Tenemos Contratistas que asumieron nuevas zonas, y en algunas de estas zonas, hemos tenido que estar al tanto de la situación para asegurarnos de que el nuevo contratista reconozca el proceso de contratación. El otro problema era no tener suficientes trabajadores disponibles.

En LCTT, hemos seguido ayudando a nuestros miembros que fueron desplazados de su sede original a medida que se conectan con el nuevo contratista a quien se le adjudicó el contrato. Algunos de estos casos han sido difíciles cuando los individuos no pueden proporcionar suficiente documentación o demostrar sus habilidades para realizar el trabajo. PG&E también aplicó cambios para los contratistas en la Inspección de Manejo de Vegetación. Hemos ayudado a los miembros en la transición a los nuevos contratistas. En algunas zonas esto ha sido la ley de la selva, por así decirlo.

El Comité Conjunto de Aprendizaje y Capacitación (JATC) ahora opera para los Podadores de árboles para el despeje de líneas (LCTT) en Woodland, CA. Los miembros pueden inscribirse para recibir clases en línea, con capacitación en inglés o español. ¡Todos los aprendices deben inscribirse ahora! Comunícate con tu Representante de Negocios para conectarte con el instructor de JATC de tu zona. La mayoría son bilingües.

Al día de hoy, casi todos los contratistas están aumentando de nuevo los tra-



A crew from ArborWorks removes a tree from a power line in Ahwahnee, CA.

Photo by John Storey

bajos, y en algunas zonas quizás ya alcanzamos el nivel máximo de contratación. Se ha eliminado todo el alojamiento y el transporte de Mowbray's Tree Service en PG&E. La Compañía dio aviso, sin que se violara el contrato.

Seguimos teniendo accidentes de vehículos en todo el sistema debidos a distracciones. Todos deben concentrarse en la carretera y su entorno. Los contactos con líneas eléctricas han sido otro problema. Estamos teniendo demasiados incidentes de este tipo.

La actividad de quejas en esta zona se ha mantenido estable. Actualmente solo tenemos algunos asuntos pendientes con los contratistas.

— Junior Ornelas, IBEW 1245
Representante de Negocios

Zona Sur

Ahora que se ha aprobado el nuevo contrato de Pole Test and Treat, hemos establecido reuniones mensuales del sindicato para estos grupos, algo que nunca antes habían tenido. Los miembros de PT&T en Davey y Osmose ahora sienten como si tuvieran voz y un lugar en este gran sindicato.

Debido al clima durante el primer trimestre hubo muchas llamadas de emergencia, cuadrillas en espera y horas extras en todas partes en la zona sur. Algunas cuadrillas trabajaban 16 horas al día, algunas estaban en espera y en el campo. Las duras condiciones climáticas causaron muchos accidentes de vehículos, y he estado predicando seguridad a todos los miembros, instándolos a mantenerse conscientes de su entorno y tener cuidado mientras conducen.

Arbor Works LLC, que no había estado otorgando días de licencia por enfermedad de acuerdo con lo establecido en el acuerdo, dice que han modificado la forma en que reciben su asignación. El empleador también quiere dejar de pagar el seguro médico de Lineco y usar su propio seguro. Para mi próxima reunión del sindicato y gerencia, he solicitado que los empleados administrativos del IBEW 1245 Ralph Armstrong y Mark Maumau participen en la reunión para solucionar estos problemas.

También tengo problemas con ACRT

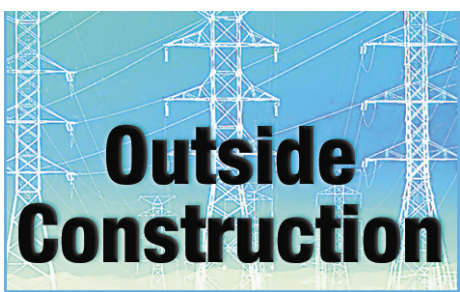
con respecto a los días de diez horas. Nuestros miembros los quieren, pero la compañía no.

En Mario's Tree Service, estamos trabajando para solucionar problemas de despidos y clasificaciones; también parece haber muchas medidas disciplinarias por cualquier cosa pequeña (aparentemente, esta es la estrategia para abordar los problemas de seguridad). Tienen un nuevo Gerente de Seguridad, y él está siendo estricto y toma medidas disciplinarias rápidamente sin hacer una buena investigación. He tenido algunas conversaciones con él y he cambiado algunas suspensiones, obligando a la compañía a hacer pagos retroactivos a los empleados. PG&E recientemente los suspendió durante tres días por no completar un informe de seguridad sobre un volcamiento que ocurrió el año pasado.

En Davey Tree, algunos miembros están siendo suspendidos por problemas en el campo, y el empleador ha estado enviando a los empleados a Oroville para ser evaluados para regresar al trabajo. Los miembros no están contentos con el tiempo fuera del trabajo que se les impone; la evaluación toma demasiado tiempo y no se les paga.

— Abel Sanchez, IBEW 1245
Representante de Negocios*

*El representante de negocios de IBEW 1245 Abel Sanchez ha anunciado sus planes de retirarse esta primavera. Durante los últimos 10 años, Sanchez ha estado trabajando con los miembros del IBEW 1245 de Manejo de vegetación en la Zona Sur, y ha tenido un impacto significativo en la industria de los árboles, tanto como jornalero podador de árboles para el despeje de líneas, así como también como defensor de los miembros. Es mejor conocido por su sonrisa única, su comportamiento amistoso y su disposición a ayudar a los demás. Los miembros son su pasión, y está comprometido a mejorar las vidas de los trabajadores de árboles. Junto a la pesca y el golf, le encantaba compartir con todos nosotros su cosecha de frutas y verduras, y lo mejor de todo eran las increíbles aceitunas verdes picantes en conserva. Deja un vacío difícil de llenar. ¡Gracias, hermano Abel, por tus años de servicio!



California

The first quarter of 2023 has been fast moving river of excitement, with record-setting rains and snowfall. The Outside Line members worked long hours for multiple days assisting PG&E in rebuilding the heavily damaged utility assets throughout the service territory. From the high Sierras to the South Bay, the demand for 1245 OSL contractors has been unprecedented. PG&E reached out to its current and new contractors for additional crews, and they also reached out to other utilities to assist (through Mutual Aid) with repairs to the infrastructure. There were a total of 601 crews working on PG&E property, and 295 of them were contractor crews.

When we have a storm event, the union always receives a number of calls and questions from members; during this round of storms, we received a

higher-than-average number of questions related to meals. There is a potential for four meals, but there are about 25 different variables that could change that number. Please continue to reach out to your Outside Line business rep for clarity in your specific situation.

With the assistance of the OSL team, 1245 is finally receiving a weekly inspector/crew schedule from PG&E. Having this information has allowed our reps to create a very efficient schedule and allows us to show up for worksite visits in an organic manner.

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 typically see here, and operators and skilled civil workers will be in high demand. PG&E completed its promised 175 miles of undergrounding in 2022, and is committed to complete 350 miles in 2023.

Nevada

1245 has had a big presence on this side of the hill. Crews have been supplementing NVE and Liberty on storm damage the last couple of months, as well as dock work and the supplementa-

tion of hands to help the utilities man their work on a day-to-day basis.

There are many jobs presently out for bid on NV Energy property. Most of these projects are up at Incline Village at Lake Tahoe. One is a 700-location fuse replacement program, as well as a three-year contract for all dock work (including all dock crews and dock hands to supplement the utility company crews) throughout the NVE territory. Bids are expected to be awarded for these projects by mid-April.

Mountain Engineering Line Construction currently has a project that will start in beginning of summer. This job consists of 139 individual pole replacements and another 40+ poles of line rebuild, with installation of new tree wire on the Incline 4100 circuit that consists of approximately one mile of line rebuild. Wilson has a project out of the Carson City yard on NVE property that will consist of approximately nine miles of line rebuild. Summit Line also has a project on NVE property out of the Carson City yard. Both projects are slated to begin this quarter. Sturgeon has dock crews working out east on NVE property, while Titan is almost completed with their project at Core Rochester Mine located in Pershing County Nevada. They continue to do the street light replacement program out of the Reno yard for NVE as well. Wasatch continues

to support NVE and Liberty on numerous different projects, including storm restoration and all the dock work to supplement both utilities. Wasatch also supports the Substation group on NVE property with numerous Sub. Techs supplementing the Substation group as well.

Informational Meetings

We've held two informational meetings for OSL members in Fresno so far this year (see pg 17). We will continue to have these meetings every other month, as long as the interest is there.

Accidents and Focus Items

We had a rocky start to the year with some basic violations, including wearing harnesses. Luckily, a member was likely saved from severe injury due to the proper wearing of a bucket harness when a tree fell on the truck while aloft. Ensuring that we are holding each other to a high standard of safety will help reduce these issues in the future. "If you see something, say something" is not just white noise.

Since then, the Outside Construction group has been rather quiet on the safety front. We continue to see minor traffic issues as our largest downfall. In addition, we continue to see service connections be an issue. Last year, PG&E issued new marking and testing guidance for service connections that

QUICK THINKING: IBEW 1245 Outside Construction Crew Moves Transformer Out of Ravine

Electrical utility work is anything but predictable — and sometimes, an unexpected situation can mean a last-minute change of plans. That's precisely what happened when a five-person IBEW outside line crew from Wasatch Construction arrived at a job in Reno, NV on a snowy day in early March.

The crew thought they were coming to perform a simple service upgrade on behalf of NV Energy for a customer's new panel. But when they arrived at the location, they discovered that the transformer was all the way down in the ravine.

Without missing a beat, the crew reassessed the situation and decided to move the transformer out of the ravine and up to the street — both for future access purposes, and also to mitigate any possible fire danger once the seasons change.

Their quick thinking, ingenuity and strategic action are skills that 1245 crews must utilize on a daily basis, as they are often faced with these types of surprises and challenges at work. Although the original job would have been much easier to complete, the crew went the extra mile to move the transformer, both as a safety measure, and also to ensure any other line crews who need to access that equipment in the future can now do so with ease.



A sharp mind, big-picture thinking, and willingness to change gears at a moment's notice are just some of the

attributes needed to work on an IBEW power line crew.

"It takes grit, determination, teamwork. You've got to want it," IBEW 1245 member and Journeyman Lineman Adam Pierson explained, pointing out that this line of work definitely isn't for everyone. "For me, I like the challenging aspect of this job ... But if you don't know what you're doing, it can be dangerous for not only yourself, but also for your crew members."

IBEW 1245 member and fourth step apprentice Osvaldo Marin noted that this job takes a lot of strength — both mental fortitude, as well as a great deal of physical capacity.

"You've got to be able to move — run, jump, lay down poles, be agile, be mobile, have no fear of heights, be able to climb and work on poles, and run up and down canyons and hills and mountainsides," Marin said, underscoring the athleticism needed to perform everyday tasks. "And if you're on transmission, you're running up and down these big, tall towers — it takes a lot out of you. You've got to keep your body in shape."

Marin detailed how his apprenticeship training — which includes physical skills like climbing, as well as classroom lessons, homework, tests and daily on-the-job training from experienced journeyman linemen — are preparing him to perform the job safely and effectively.

"It's a challenge every day," he said. "I'm here to keep learning from these

guys, always hungry for that next challenge."

Pierson, who works as a foreman for Wasatch, explained how IBEW crews cultivate an incredibly close bond, as they rely heavily on one another to do the work correctly and keep the whole crew safe.

"The camaraderie, the brotherhood ... when you're working with good people, this is the best job in the world," he said. "You know the guys have your back, and are watching your back. The



brotherhood is probably the best part of it for me."

— Fred Aboud, IBEW 1245 Business Rep



was meant to deal with a rash of damaged customer homes and equipment.

This year our crews have been busy on storm assignments, travelling from the coast to the Sierras, and everywhere in between. Members have been working 7-16's in order to get power back to the communities impacted. Fatigue and burnout have been a prevalent issue, and should not be discounted. Please ensure that you are focusing on yourself and your wellbeing during these events. Ensuring you are at your best, ensures you are working as safely as possible.

We have seen a large volume of storm calls from multiple contractors trying to respond to the weather events at hand. With that, it has raised a multitude of questions surrounding meals and lodging. Understanding that there are a variety of scenarios that change the meal requirements, please continue to contact any of the representatives to work through the specifics.

During recent crew visits, I have been ecstatic to see the amount of hands-on learning that I have witnessed. It is refreshing to see our apprentices and groundmen being instructed with such a deep explanation behind the task. The education of the next generation is critical to all our success in the future.

We have added a multitude of new contractors. In addition, there are various Joint Trench projects that will be starting in the next few weeks. If there are questions regarding the contractor doing this work, please contact the Union. We want to ensure that our members are working in the correct capacities. IBEW 1245 can and will support any needs at hand.

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 you believe would mutually benefit from IBEW participation, please reach out.

Dispatch

IBEW 1245 dispatch office hours are 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 additional 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.

When arriving at the union hall to sign or re-sign the books, you will be prompted to 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 process. 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.
- First quarter 2023 dispatch numbers:
- Appr Lineman calls 121
 - Groundman calls 234
 - Flagger calls 5
 - Line EQ Man calls 88
 - Fab Tech calls 42
 - Cable Splicer calls 1
 - Sub Tech calls 27
 - Jry Lineman calls 723

Total year-to-date calls for 2023 = 1,241.

We currently have 306 on the Lineman books.

LaborPower Mobile App

IBEW Local 1245's LaborPower app allows 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

We are currently waiting on a meeting with the full Red Book committee to approve changes to the Red Book. Once approved, we will print another batch of books. 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 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 wrongdoings by workers in the local's jurisdiction. This is not a good trend, and we as a membership must do better.

IBEW 1245's dispatch policies state that if a member is discharged due to any safety violation, they will be placed on a dispatch hold until they meet with the examining committee to 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. Everyone needs to stay focused on safety and quality; 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

- The JATC received 1,428 completed applications during its most recent application period (March 27 through April 7). Of these applications, 900 (63%) qualified for direct (priority) interview, and 528 (37%) would be non-direct.
- Anyone who is thinking about becoming a line apprentice should monitor the Cal Nevada JATC website for future announcements.
- Current apprentices report as of April 4, 2023**
- 646 outside line apprentices registered in the Cal/Nev JATC program
 - 0 traveling apprentices in Cal/Nev's jurisdiction

- 221 apprentices working out of Local 1245
- 247 working out of Local 47
- 47 working out of Local 396
- 55 unemployed
- 15 suspended, 12 on medical hold and 15 on a leave
- 73 apprentices graduated to Journeyman Lineman in 2023
- 0 new apprentices indentured as outside line apprentices in 2023

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 affects 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 whenever you have an apprentice working with you.

Competent Persons 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 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. If you are interested and want to sign up for this class, visit www.calnevjatc.org. Click on the Web Services tab, then Class Schedule. If you do not already have a web account with the JATC, you will need to create one. Class availability is based on first-come, first-serve basis.

CPR & First Aid classes are scheduled for the second Friday of every month at the Woodland and Riverside facilities.

Injured Workers Fund

The balance of the Fund as of April 2, 2023, was \$1,011,447.49. In the three months past, the Fund has paid out 45 claims. The Summary Plan Description (SPD) and Application can be found on the union's website <https://ibew1245.com/outside-line-injured-workers-fund/>

New Organizing

The following contractors have organized with 1245 under the California Outside Line Construction Agreement:

- Alpine Drilling and Construction, LLC
- Alvah Group, Inc.
- Blott Utility Services
- Divergent Alliance
- Heavy Road & Rail, Inc
- ICR Service, Inc.
- kV Power Pacific Inc.
- PraXel Line Services
- Premium Utility Contractor
- Stanislaus River Electric, Inc

IBEW 1245 Hosts Informational Meetings in Fresno for Outside Line Members

In fall of 2022, IBEW 1245 hosted its first informational meeting for outside line members in and around the Fresno area. The participation was exceptional, with nearly 60 members at the meeting — exceeding the capacity of the room we had rented at a local pizza restaurant.

Subsequently, 1245 has found a larger space for the OSL meetings. These meetings will continue to occur regularly, and are open to all outside line members.

— Ben Contreras, IBEW 1245 Business Rep



Nearly 60 outside line members attended an IBEW 1245 informational meeting in Fresno. Photo by John Story



North Bay February 10, 2023



35 Years Front row, from left: Russell Giles, John Cole and Jorge Licia. Back row, from left: Lem Stubblefield and Michael Williams

Congratulations on your service!



15 Years Front row, from left: Rachel Segale, Ryley Pederson and Manuel Cortez Jr. Back row, from left: Lokelani Webb and (Dean)



45 Years From left: Marc Silva and Business Manager Bob Dean
Photos by John Storey



30 Years From left: (Brown), Rafael Alvarez Jr. and (Dean)



30 Years

Front row, from left: Assistant Business Manager Mike Adayan, Kathlene Swanson and Fidel Diaz. Back row, from left: Senior Assistant Manager Anthony Brown and (Dean)



20 Years From left: Dean Smith and Javier Barboza



10 Years Front row, from left: Polo Gonzalez, Daniel Plumb and Karina Garcia. Back row, from left: (Brown), Business Rep Garrett Markwood, Aaron Debacker and (Dean)



5 Years From left: Anthony Gerren Jr. and Rodrigo Padilla

HONOREES

5 years

Adams, Jesse
Aldrete, Christopher
Arteaga Alvarez, David Jr.
Ayon, Daniel
Bowen, James
Cooper, Maxwell
Davis, Kevin
Esskew, Ryan
Flores, Jose
Gerren, Anthony Jr.
Gomez Aguilar, Rosain
Goodspeed, Christina
Hermann, Jeffrey
Hoffert, John
Juarez, Rodolfo
Long, Samuel II
Lozada, Nathan
Majerus, Nathan
Marin Rodriguez, Juan
Molina, Ty
Morris, Justin
Ortiz, Edgar
Padilla, Rodrigo
Pitkin, James
Prior, Wyatt
Rains, Cody
Ribbens, Robert
Rosales, Omar

Ruiz Trejo, Lorenzo
Salgado Colin, Fernando
Soriano Soriano, Israel
Soriano Torres, Jesus
Tsegeletos, Olivia
Unsworth, Larry
Villarreal, Griselda
Whiteman, Andrew

10 years

Ackerman, Jacob
Bagala, Gino
Baxley, Justin
Castillo Arroyo, Cesar
Debacker, Aaron
Edgar, Matthew
Ennis, Garrett
Fray, Richard
Fuchs, Nathan
Garcia, Karina
Giusti, Adam
Gonzalez, Polo
Greene, Spencer
Greenland, William
Horrell, Gabriel
Horton, Robert
Householder, Robert
Hurd, Jeremy

Lake, Justin
Leckenby, Tanner
Lee, Curtis
Lim, Michael
Makohon, Michael
Markwood, Garrett
Melaugh, Jack
Milne, Mac
Morolla, Marc
Murphy, Andrew
Nunez, Sean
Plumb, Daniel
Sabin, Andrew
Sanneman, John
Santana, Mark
Sjoden, Tanner
Smith, Casey
Smith, Thomas
Soth, Chanthoeun
Sullivan, Thomas
Watson, Trevor

15 years

Balistreri, Amanda
Cortez, Manuel Jr.
Duran, Aaron
Garcia-Haro, Gregorio
Gray, Daniel
Lautrup, Jeffrey
Lobato, Francisco
Pederson, Ryley
Puckett, Scott
Purugganan, Steve
Ramirez, Rachel

Sheperson, Gary
Tasista, Louis
Wall, Kevin
Webb, Jorunn

20 years

Alonso, Jose
Barboza, Javier
Chavez, Felipe
Denson, Thomas
Espinoza, Luis
Espinoza, Santos
Goekler, Justin
Hernandez, Eric
Izzarelli, Josh
Jonsson, Charlie
Kikuchi, Joseph
Kingwell, Steven
Labo, Michael
Maffei, Andrew
Ming, Bobby
Mooney, Susan
Smith, Dean
Vitorelo, Tony
Young, Marc

25 years

Faix, Jesse
Garcia, Bernice
Hernandez, Nathan
Marsh, Terah
Torino, Victor

30 years

Adayan, Michael Jr.

Alvarez, Rafael Jr.
Ban, Chhan
Brown, Eleanor
Dehart, Marcus
Diaz, Fidel
Horton, Cindy
Kotula, Jon
Louie, Edmund
Maher, Daniel
Swanson, Kathlene

35 years

Cole, John
Giles, Russell
Kemp, Jim
Licea, Jorge
Nott, Mitchell
Stubblefield, Lem
Welch, Paul
Williams, Michael

40 years

Steffen, Julia
Watson, Stuart

45 years

Grigsby, Korri
Osteen, Jeanne
Risso, Randy
Silva, Marc

50 years

Turner, Brent

VIDEO: Hold the Pull — An Important Safety Message for IBEW 1245 Line Workers

In this new video, members of IBEW 1245's "Hold the Pull" peer-to-peer safety initiative speak candidly about the critical importance of taking responsibility for our own safety and the safety of our fellow union members on the job.

To learn more and get involved in IBEW 1245's peer safety program, email MFA1@ibew1245.com

Watch it here: ibew1245.com/video



The IBEW 1245 Executive Board and Advisory Council met at the Sunrise Center in Vacaville on Saturday, January 28. They were joined by IBEW staff, and 95 Organizing Stewards clad in bright blue organizing t-shirts and organizing jackets – ready to be sworn in as the Class of 2023.

IBEW 1245 President Cecelia De La Torre called the meeting to order and swore in three newly elected Advisory Council members.

Dean: “The January Storms Were Devastating”

Business Manager Bob Dean commended the extraordinary job by IBEW 1245 members in response to the storms



Business Manager Bob Dean speaks of the devastating storms and the incredible response by our members.

that ravaged California in January.

“After 14 years of drought, the January storms were devastating,” he said. “Our members gave a phenomenal response; working 30 days in a row — slaying it.” Brother Dean also shared the tragic loss of one member who died in a vehicle accident during the storm. See In Memoriam on page 35.

In a separate incident, Anthony Macera, a Nuclear Operator who was on his way to work at Diablo Canyon Power Plant during the atmospheric storm event, was involved in a head-on collision and suffered extensive injuries.



President Cecilia De La Torre welcomes everyone to the first Advisory Council meeting of the year.



President Cecilia De La Torre reads the oath to the Class of 2023 Organizing Stewards.



Business Manager Bob Dean shakes the hand of IBEW 1245 Business Representative Abel Sanchez for his service to the membership.



Three new Advisory Council members are sworn in.

He’d only been hired six days prior to the accident and as a result does not qualify for FMLA.

Senior Assistant Business Manager Bob Gerstle shared, “Early in my career I was told driving might be the most dangerous thing you do.” Brother Gerstle and Senior Assistant Business Manager Anthony Brown will continue to press for more training. The hat was passed, both members and staff donated \$4,000 that will be split between the families. For the first time in its history, PG&E has authorized a vacation sale for the employee of a contractor.

Diablo Canyon Power Plant Extension

Turning to Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Dean affirmed the plant’s life will be extended, notwithstanding bumps in the road. Questions had been raised when it was reported that the federal government had rejected PG&E’s petition. Dean clarified that it simply means PG&E will have to file a new form rather than using the prior one. “It’s more work, but nothing we didn’t anticipate,” he said.

Undergrounding: Defending Our Work

Dean reported that as billions of dollars of work come to California and Nevada for infrastructure and undergrounding, there will be more competition for work that traditionally has been the domain of IBEW 1245.

“Everyone is looking at undergrounding because of the billions (of dollars) involved,” he said. “It’s the most work we’ve ever seen lined up this way. It’s going to take all of us to protect our work.”

TransCanada Going to IBEW Local 77

IBEW 1245 has agreed to transfer members at TransCanada to IBEW Local 77 which is headquartered in Washington. A majority of TransCanada members live in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon with two members residing in California.

Fred Ross Jr. PRESENTE

Brother Dean shared the recent passing of IBEW 1245 Organizer Fred Ross, Jr. Together with the Organizing Team, Brother Ross was instrumental in building the Organizing Steward Program. See In Memoriam on page 36.

His name will be added to the memorial wall at the union hall.

Induction of Organizing Steward Class of 2023

Finally, Brother Dean welcomed the Organizing Stewards Class of 2023.

“Today, as has been our custom for the last nine years, we are pleased to welcome the 2023 Class of IBEW 1245 Organizing Stewards!” said Dean. “Our Organizing Stewards are the pride and glory of 1245 across the labor movement: our special forces at the State Capitol, at the bargaining table, in elections that impact our members, at work where they celebrate the union difference and showcase 1245 pride in the community. I want to thank you for your willingness to defend and build our union!” See more on page 20.

— Eileen Purcell, IBEW 1245 Senior Advisor/Organizer
Photos by John Storey



Senior Assistant Business Manager Bob Gerstle addresses the recent member injuries and fatality.



Safety Director Jody Castro details safety protocols in the event of an emergency.



The Class of 2023 Organizing Stewards
Photos by John Storey

“Respect the Jacket”

IBEW 1245 Organizing Stewards Inducted into the Class of 2023

At the first quarterly Advisory Council meeting of the year, the excitement and energy in the large conference room at the Sunrise Center in Vacaville was palpable. IBEW 1245 Organizing Stewards were in the house, 95 to be exact, anxiously awaiting their induction into the Class of 2023 Organizing Stewards. It was the first time in two years since the onset of COVID-19 that Organizing Stewards were able to meet in-person to be sworn in, providing an opportunity to get to know one another, to meet our officers and IBEW staff, and to build relationships.

The signature blue organizing t-shirts and jackets could be seen in every direction! Business Manager Bob Dean recognized and thanked the group, Organizing Staff, and Business Reps for their hard work and dedication to ad-

vancing IBEW 1245’s mission of building the brotherhood and defending working families. 95 of our 125 newly appointed Organizing Stewards gave their Saturday to the task. And it was well worth it.

Each year, the Organizing Staff taps on one of our Organizing Stewards to address the Advisory Council on behalf of the year’s class. This year we were blown away with five-year Organizing Steward Lead Brandon Fosselman who shared his story of how the union changed his life. He spoke of his childhood, the hardships his family endured, the difference an uncle who was a proud union member made in his life, and how his children won’t have to go through his hardships because of his union job.

Fosselman’s story resonated with many in the room. For many of us, this was our story as well, we just never talk

about it.

Our IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward program is all about building relationships and building solidarity grounded in empathy and justice. We create opportunities to share our stories, including our fears, struggles, and challenges and to develop the organizing skills to meet those challenges with confidence.

Fosselman captured everyone’s attention and had some filled with emotion as he described how being an Organizing Steward has provided him with new purpose.

He closed his presentation by declaring to the Class of 2023, “The Organizing Steward jacket we wear is earned. Respect the jacket, respect the jacket!” to a roaring applause.

To earn this badge of honor, our Organizing Stewards participate in on-going

trainings and campaigns, conduct member to member welcome calls to newly unionized brothers and sisters, participate in solidarity actions, represent IBEW 1245 as delegates to their Central Labor Councils and conferences.

Organizing Stewards volunteer countless hours of their own time for the good of the union. They are the first to arrive and the last to leave. They are poised to fight the good fight to preserve and improve our bargaining agreements. They celebrate the union difference at their worksites and in their communities. They engage and recruit their co-workers to get involved in our union. They hold the conversations about why politics matter.

2022 was a remarkable year and 2023 promises to be no different. With 125 Organizing Stewards strong, we are confident that we are prepared to face any and all challenges, and to grow and strengthen IBEW 1245 and the labor movement.

— Rene Cruz Martinez,
IBEW 1245 Assistant
Business Manager/
Organizer



Organizing Steward Lead Brandon Fosselman addresses the Advisory Council and sharing his personal story.



Organizing Stewards being sworn in

Interested in becoming
an Organizing Steward?
Contact us at: Organizers@ibew1245.com

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Second Quarter Advisory Council Meeting

The IBEW 1245 Executive Board and Advisory Council convened its second meeting of the year at Weakley Hall in Vacaville on Saturday, April 29. President Cecelia De La Torre called the meeting to order at 9am.

State of the Union

Business Manager Bob Dean began the meeting with a brief overview of some of the challenges that IBEW 1245 is facing in the coming months and years. See “Arcing
continued on next page



Business Manager Bob Dean delivers his quarterly address to the union leadership.

Remembering Perry Zimmerman

A man with short, dark hair is speaking into a black microphone. He is wearing a light blue button-down shirt under a blue and white checkered blazer. He is standing in front of a blue background.

Advisory Council Member Dan Mayo Retires

Mayo, who hired on with PG&E in 1974 and worked as a troubleman for PG&E, is one of the longest-serving Advisory Council members in I245 history. Known to liven up IBEW meetings with his incredible juggling tricks, he has also



SERVICE AWARDS

A group photo of four people standing against a grey backdrop. From left to right: a bald man with a grey beard wearing a grey zip-up sweater; a man with dark hair and a mustache wearing a dark blue polo shirt; a woman with grey hair wearing a brown and white plaid shawl; and a man with long brown hair wearing a dark blue button-down shirt and a grey baseball cap.

A photograph of three people standing side-by-side against a dark background. On the left is a man with a grey beard and mustache, wearing a dark polo shirt. In the center is a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing glasses and a dark patterned top. On the right is a man with grey hair and a mustache, wearing glasses and a dark suit jacket over a light blue shirt. All three are smiling and holding a dark wooden award plaque. Each plaque features a circular seal with a star and the text 'OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL' and 'STATE OF TEXAS'. Below the seal, the plaques contain text identifying the recipients and the awarding body.

Congratulations on your service!

HONOREES

Acosta, Francisco
Baker, Jeffrey
Benson, Matthew
Bin, Richard
Bojorquez, David
Camacho, Jibran
Chavez, Christopher
Davis, Owen
Dickinson, George
Dooley, Gerald
Galtman, Stephen
Garcia, Luis
Griffin, Jason

Hahn, Christina
Hardy, Craig
Heuerman, Eric
Lagomarsino, Antoni
Lambrecht, Lars
Marin Rodriguez,
Victor
Nguyen, Son
Owens, Dillon
Perez, Joseph
Rader, Scott
Richmond, Nathan
Roberts, Bryant
Rose, Aaron

Arcinas, Ramon
Ayala, Jose
Balcazar, Dagoberto
Barnes, Lynnard
Bernal, Anna
Boursalian, Karen
Calderon, Theresa
Culp, David
Dodd, Jeremy

Enriquez, Victor
Fratzke, Jason
Fuentes, Jose
Garcia, John
Gordon, Lington Jr.
Ha, Dung
Harnish, Anthony
Harris, Robert
Hernandez, Miguel
Ivashchenko, Andrii
McShea, Kevin
Medina, Alejandro
Morales, Gervacio
Muro, Aaron
Nguyen, Sy
Obaidi, Hafizullah
Orozco, Jesus
Paredes, Jorge

Parshutkin, Stanislav
Parsons, Joshua
Pedneault, Matthew
Polido, Kathy
Porter, Jennifer
Saya, Amber
Silacci, Dennis
Stornetta, Bryan
Valerio, Edgar
Villanueva, Kevin
Wahhab, Rodaina
Wallis, Jonas

Agbalog, Vincent
Aryanpour, Kimberly
Barbosa, Veronica
Boyea, Christopher

Caldera, Guillermo
Carrasco, Richard
Farzaneh, Kovon
Frost, David
Garcia, David
Haugen, Kirk
Herrera, Ruben
Ida, Craig
James, Zachary
Levas, Nicholas
Marcano, Robert
Montejano, Ricardo
Phung, Minh
Ricardez, Fernando
Sanchez, Tina
Spencer, Will
Viele, Todd
Waters, Donald

Acosta, Rudolph
Alarid, Scott
Alvarez, David Jr.
Baker, Aaron
Bell, Robert
Escobar, Santos
Hathaway, Marcus
Hernandez, Marco
Koontz, Frederick
Kuzmenko, Stanislav
Latimore, Che'
Little, Mick
Lopez, Jose
Nava, Manuel

Navarette, Raul
Riggins, Aaron
Rios, Johnny
Sanders, John
Santos, Gregory
Schubert, Robert
Tomaro, Kurt
Torres, Rogelio Sr.
Velasquez, Andrew

25 years

Cervantes, Juan
DeForge, Robert III
Martinez, Rutilo

30 years

Anderson, David
Barqas, Gregory Jr.

Hernandez, Jesus
Spah, Shannon

35 years

Arellano, Eduardo
De La Guerra, Steve
Sato, Valerie

40 years

La Fon, Michael
Longa, Joseph

45 years

Balcazar, Dagoberto Sr.
Carbajal, Rosario

50 years

Cameron, Michael

Storm Stories

Powering California Through the Most Severe Winter on Record

In March of 2023, following years of drought, California's rain and snowfall reached unprecedented levels — surpassing the wettest winter in recorded history (1982-83) in some areas. The Sierra snowpack exceeded its previous record, with more than 600 inches of snow since a parade of atmospher-

ic river storms first made landfall in December. As of early April, PG&E's Emergency Operations Center had been open 40 out of the 76 days in 2023.

With the severity of these storms comes widespread damage and incredibly complex power restoration jobs, some that require snowcats, backhoes and days

of digging just to access. With tens of thousands of people without power in potentially hazardous conditions, IBEW 1245 members from across California worked tirelessly for many weeks in the hardest-hit parts of the state. Below, a few 1245 members share their storm stories.

Head on a Swivel

"You have to have an extreme tolerance for stress, I would say, and the ability to face that stress down and do the right thing even when you really, really don't want to."

— Nine-Year IBEW 1245 member
Ben Benton, GC Line Electric Crew Foreman, PG&E



In late February, the San Francisco Bay Area was in the middle of a series of atmospheric river events that caused heavy flooding, spurred evacuations, and swept away structures.

On a busy ten-lane stretch of Highway 101 south of San Francisco, torrential rain and wind caused a tree to fall into a substation pole that had three circuits on it. A copper conductor that ran across Highway 101 had sagged low. A truck caught that conductor and broke poles that had three separate circuits on it, and caused an extended outage to 5,700 customers.

"If this job was down the residential sidewalk, if we could get buckets to it and shut the streets down ... this job, with three circuits on it, would probably be a



All ten lanes of Highway 101 near Menlo Park were closed to allow crews to repair damaged circuits and wire on Feb. 23, 2023.

six or a seven (out of ten) on difficulty," said Ben Benton, Electric Crew Foreman for PG&E and IBEW 1245 member. "You add in 10 lanes of [closed] freeway traffic that's costing \$4 million a minute, and it cranks it up to a stressful 10."

"I went through IBEW apprenticeship, and I've been working overhead in the Bay Area, all around from the East Bay to San Francisco, to prepare me for this level of insanity," Benton said. "I'd say the most difficult part of this job is to remind yourself not to take any shortcuts or half-ass anything, because the pressure is there, big time. Not out loud, but it's there. There's a lot of people out [of power], and there's a lot of stuff going on."

Handy with a Chainsaw

"We got to do what we got to do."

— Three-year IBEW 1245 member
Reinaldo Andrade, Line Clearance Tree Trimmer Crew Foreman, ArborWorks

In the middle of a low-visibility rainstorm, Foreman Reinaldo Andrade and his crew set out to remove a tree that had fallen into a fence and then split a pole, knocking out power near the Oak Ridge area in Santa Clara county.

"You got to know your way around the chainsaw," Andrade told us as his crew fin-

continued on page 24



PG&E GC crews from San Jose supporting storm restoration in Ben Lomond



Crews dig and position a pole to restore power on March 9.



An Outside Line crew performs storm restoration work.



Tree trimmers from Davey Tree support storm restoration efforts in Felton.

“Seems like the worst rain and winds we’ve had” IBEW 1245 Crews Restore Power in the Santa Cruz Mountains

Several IBEW 1245 crews from PG&E, outside line and vegetation management continued to clean up storm damage and restore power after weeks of severe inclement weather. Steep slopes coupled with dense forest and wet conditions made the areas of Felton and Ben Lomond incredibly difficult to work in.

With any jobsite, working safely, especially in precarious conditions, is priority

number one when dealing with damaged trees and lines.

“The rough terrain (is challenging) and we’ve always got to watch for trees and mudslides,” explained PG&E Subforeman Shannon Spah. “The roads on the other side, where we’re going to go later, is really hard. Access is tight, especially

continued on next page

ished cutting out the tree, so a PG&E crew could come in and work on the downed line. “It takes a lot of time to get trained. You got to make sure you know where you’re putting the cuts, make sure the tree, the branches are not bouncing back, as well as looking over your crew members, make sure they’re out of the way, that you’re not cutting while they’re inside cutting branches. And basically, just make sure that PG&E and their crew can do the job safely.”

Putting the Public and Our Hometowns First

In the Sierras and surrounding foothills, the winter snowpack reached more than 200% of average — complicating efforts to find and rebuild damaged infrastructure. On Clipper Creek Road near Nevada City, PG&E GC Subforeman Rory Andersen and his crew had to dig for three days before getting access to a pole that needed to be repaired to re-energize a local neighborhood.

“Today we have a snowcat, we have a skid steer, we have a backhoe, and we have a line excavator for our pole set and getting a hole dug,” Andersen explained. “In this area, the most technical aspect of our work is going to be access. Environmental is a big part of it, and also the safety of my team, to get everybody back to their families at night, the way they showed up to work in the morning. You guys can see five feet of snow on the side of the road, they’re running multiple teams at a time to keep access moving, to get the power back on.”

The crew has been working steadily since the start of the year, with one storm following another.

“I can say that supporting reliability would be our crews out here day in and day out, away from our families, putting the public and our hometowns first to keep everybody in power,” said Andersen. “There are a lot of elderly in this area that we’ve helped with snow plowing and just making sure to keep the lights on, keep the heat going.”

“I’ve been a lineman for nine years, and in the trade for 14 years,” said Andersen.



“Gotta have the resiliency to be out here, day in and day out, for our hometowns ... we’re working long hours, weeks and weeks on end. So you’ve got to be able to roll with the punches.” – Nine-year IBEW 1245 member Rory Andersen, GC Sub Foreman, PG&E



A crew from ArborWorks removes a tree from a PG&E site on March 14, 2023.

“I’ve come a long way... leaving the West Coast and going out to Nebraska, I traveled 15 states, did an IBEW apprenticeship, which was four years in length, and then spent four years at PG&E as a journeyman lineman before I made foreman to run a crew.”

“I’m very prideful in being able to work for Local 1245,” he said. “It’s always been a dream of mine since I started in this trade. They have made it possible to support my family, to raise young children and to do their best, to keep us safe. And I really do truly believe they put our best interests first before anything else. So I’m very proud to be a part of that.”

Photos by John Storey



IBEW 1245 on the Scene: Winter Storm... Watch later Share

Watch on YouTube

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ybCToZvR3w

Photos in video compiled by 1245 staff



Storm restoration in Ben Lomond

Santa Cruz Mountains continued from previous page

for the trucks.”

PG&E Subforeman Lee Griffiths, a ten-year IBEW 1245 member, said in his experience other storm systems pale in comparison to this storm event.

“This seems like the worst rain and winds we’ve had at once since I’ve been here.”

Spah, a thirty-one year member, who is also a current IBEW 1245 Shop Steward, knows the union has his back and is the only choice for him.

“Well, I had got in ‘92 and I haven’t left. I’ve been a Shop Steward for well over 20 years of that,” he said. “That’s where I’ll end up, is somewhere in the union, that’s for sure.”

— Melissa Echeverria, IBEW 1245 Staffer
Photos by John Storey



Subforeman Shannon Spah

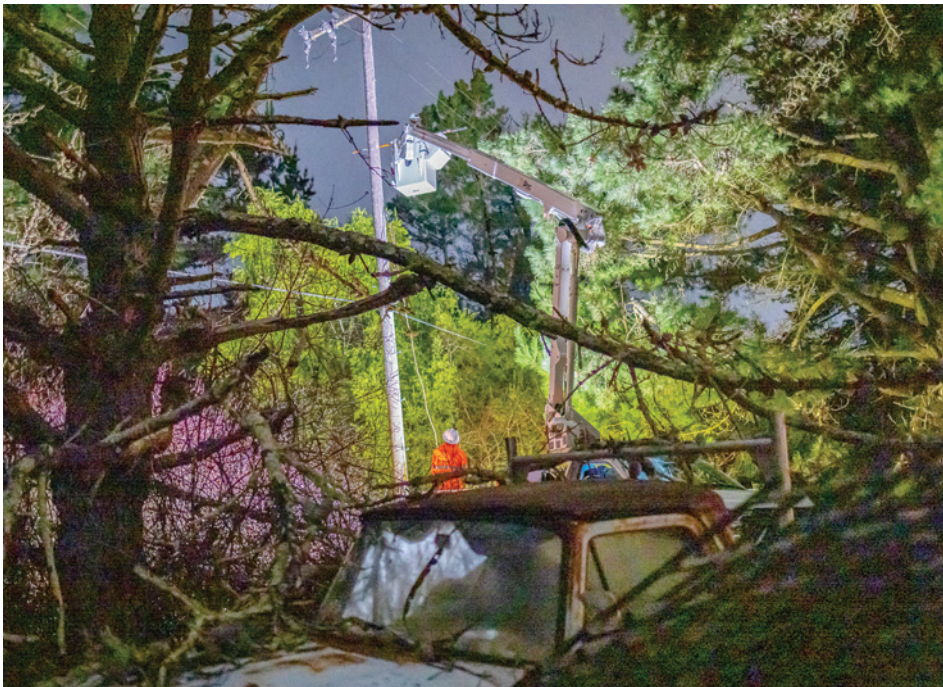


PG&E Subforeman Lee Griffiths



Storm Stories

Local 1245 Members Restore Power as Atmospheric River Slams Northern and Central California



A PG&E crew surveys downed power lines at night in Half Moon Bay.

Millions of customers lost power when several historic atmospheric events barreled down on the state of California, arriving on New Year's Eve continuing through early Spring. The golden state was drenched with record breaking rain and snow fall, coupled with ferocious wind gusts, lightning, thunder, and a tornado warnings.

The atmospheric rivers resulted in widespread flooding, mudslides, fallen trees, and other hazardous conditions with local news reporting several fatalities due to the storm events.

According to the National Weather Service, coastal areas of California saw wind speeds of 40 to 80 miles per hour, with wind speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour near Lake Tahoe.

A local meteorologist reported that the 12.37 inches of rain that fell in San Francisco between December 26 and January 9 qualifies as the third-wettest 15-day period since 1849. Some areas south of Big Sur saw 6 to 8 inches of rain in a 24-hour period.

As most families stayed indoors to weather the storm, thousands of members assisted those in devastated communities. More than 597 IBEW 1245 crews, first responders, and mutual aid crews from eight states, coming as far as Wisconsin and Canada, worked



Storm restoration crews in Half Moon Bay



Storm restoration in the Outer Sunset District, San Francisco

Utility Reporter

around the clock to restore power in the wake of the powerful storm system.

"The incredible men and women of IBEW 1245 have responded in horrible working conditions to restore power to their communities," remarked IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean. "We should all be proud of them and their unending commitment."

■ ■ ■

In the Outer Sunset District neighborhood of San Francisco, a PG&E crew was re-conductoring a primary on a busy intersection.

"There's a lot of customers out of power. On this specific job, they've been out for two days," said PG&E Division Lineman DJ Ebrada. "We don't get hit by a lot of trees down here in the city. Most of our damage usually is from the flooding. When it's overhead, it's mostly equipment failure."

As crews continued their restoration work in the city, another line crew was assigned to rebuild an entire line in South San Francisco, where the hilly terrain made the restoration work especially difficult.

"This is all inaccessible and on a muddy, slippery, loose hillside," said PG&E GC Subforeman Ben Benton. "If you put something down, it rolls away. If you run wire out, it's getting caught on trees and the tree branches love the wire. So, we're having to make the trips back and forth from the pole 20 or 30 times because the amount of stuff that's on the ground."

Before the line crew could begin their restoration work, vegetation management crews were called to clear the worksite of potential hazards.

"Three trees took out the primary, secondary, and phone (line), and broke a bunch of cross-arms and services," said Benton. "Vegetation cut three large trees that were down and probably close to 50 (trees) that were overgrowing on our easement."



PG&E crews do storm restoration in South San Francisco.

Benton and the skilled crew took it all in stride and set out to complete their task in a safe manner, ensuring that the poles and their infrastructure are sound for those who many climb the poles in years to come.

"We re-frame the pole, we put all new composite arms...we pull new wire, we change out the services that need them," said Benton. "We try to never band-aid anything. We start with a brand-new foundation that's going to last a long time because you never know who's the next guy up this pole."

— Melissa Echeverria, IBEW 1245 Staffer

Photos by John Storey



IBEW 1245 Members Respond to Humboldt County Earthquake

A massive 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck Humboldt County in the early morning hours on December 20, its epicenter was about 15 miles from Fortuna.

PG&E Electric Crew Foreman Tim Nickols was at home when the earthquake struck. “When I woke up, it was shaking pretty extreme, violent,” said Nickols. “And I was thinking to myself, this should stop, or the house is going to fall down.”

As 70,000 customers were without power following the aftermath of the quake, IBEW 1245 members swiftly left their own homes and families to assess the damage, respond to several gas leaks, and address multiple downed power lines.

The morning found Nickols alongside the electric crew making repairs at a dairy in Ferndale. “We’ve been patrolling main line, making tags, assessing damage. Now we’re putting up wire due to the earthquake,” Nickols said.

Underneath a freeway overpass in Fields Landing, gas crews were dispatched to repair a gas leak on a three-inch distribution main that was detected in the shake zone.

“That [distribution main] feeds all of Fields Landing area. The main is really deep so that’s a challenge,” stated IBEW 1245 member and PG&E Gas Crew Foreman Jesse Faix.

Due to the depth of the distribution main, proper shoring was needed to excavate.

“The main is approximately seven feet. On this end, the repair is probably seven to eight feet,” said Faix. “At the other end of the job site, we moved the hole back because we found it a little shallower, at five and a half feet, which still requires shoring. It’s all a challenge, and we’re hoping to beat the rain.”

Twenty miles away in Rio Dell, another gas crew repaired leaks with their own set of challenges, less-than-ideal soil conditions.

“When you work in your own area, you’re used to knowing what kind of soil you’re going be digging in,” said IBEW 1245 member Jeremy Bartee, PG&E Arc Crew Foreman from Auburn. “Each of them requires a different investigative technique, but out here you just don’t know what you’re in, whether you’re investigating a gas leak in clay, cobblestone, hard pan.”

The type of soil that the crew was working with was clay, which tends to stick together.

“It’s not porous, so it doesn’t allow the gas to come right up where you would think it would,” Bartee explained. “It takes a lot more drilling holes and taking reads.”

Complete restoration of the 70,000 customers who lost power by the temblor occurred the following day, per PGE-currents.com.

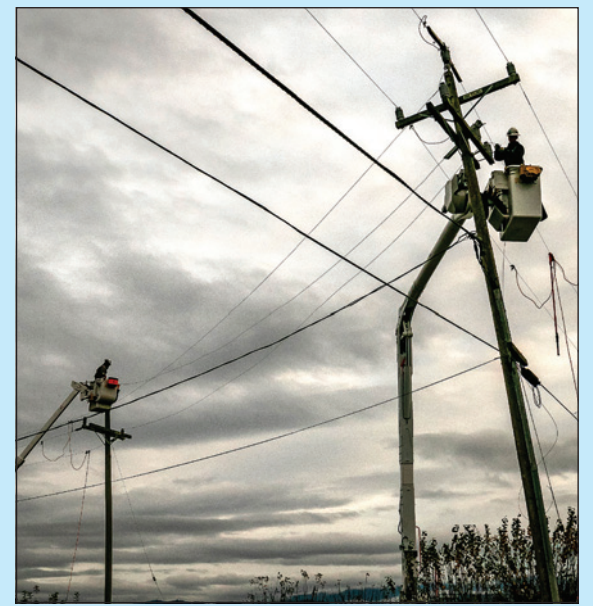
The restoration efforts could not have been done without the swift and safe work of several lines of business coming together for this emergency response. Roughly 25 Gas Service Reps were deployed to assist with restoration efforts. Over 70 Gas Compliance Reps were dispatched to assist on two fronts: completed surveys of the gas pipelines in the impacted areas and locating gas lines for emergency repairs.

“During an event like this, it takes members from all lines of business to pitch in. IBEW 1245 deeply appreciates the hard work and dedication of our membership,” said Assistant Business Manager Mike Adayan.

“From the responsibility of restoration to guaranteeing safe and reliable service to all of PG&E’s impacted customers, it was an extraordinary amount of work completed in a short period of time; all with the approaching Christmas holiday,” he added. “Again, thank you to all, it’s times like these that makes me proud to be an IBEW 1245 member.”

KCRA reported 17 individuals with injuries were sustained including 2 deaths in the city of Rio Dell as a result of the earthquake.

— Melissa Echeverria, IBEW 1245 Staffer
Photos by John Storey



PG&E Arc Crew Foreman Jeremy Bartee (left), and Equipment Operator Mike Stedman, Jr. fix a gas leak at a house in Rio Dell.

Gas Crew Foreman Jesse Faix in Fields Landing assisting with restoration efforts



Making repairs at a dairy in Ferndale



“Hot Work” in Snowy Weather

On a snowy day in February, we traveled out to a remote worksite in Potter Valley to visit IBEW 1245 members from PG&E and Outside Line as they worked to replace a pole as part of PG&E’s ongoing fire hardening efforts.

Hours earlier, a six-person IBEW 1245 crew from PG&E GC Line Humboldt had traversed the dirt road through exceptionally rugged terrain to reach this way-off-the-beaten-path worksite. When we arrived, PG&E Acting Crew Foreman Luke McAvoy and 7th Step Apprentice Casey Kinney were already up in the air, applying rubber protective equipment to the energized high voltage lines, in preparation for the safe installation of a fiberglass-wrapped pole to occur later in the day. On the ground, Lineman Garrett Ennis was acting as a Qualified Observer to ensure the crew’s safety while working with energized lines, and MEO Chris McMahan provided an extra set of eyes as well as ground assistance. Once the lines were made safe, two 1st Step Apprentices, Elaine Degnan and Eric Garcia, having climbed the pole and in their respective positions, prepared the rest of the existing pole for its removal. They all worked together to remove the weather station and free up the communications riser that were mounted on the pole.

McAvoy then came down from the air to greet us. He pointed out that this particular pole replacement would require “hot work” – meaning, the pole change-out was occurring while the 12,000-volt lines remained energized. For this reason, the crew would have to perform various parts of the job using Primary Rubber Gloves from a dielectrically tested bucket truck, which is not a procedure that one learns overnight. Working on energized high-voltage lines is a highly technical and potentially hazardous skill that requires extensive training.

McAvoy explained all the potential safety issues associated with this job — not just the energized lines, but also the terrain, weather, suspended loads, and heavy equipment constantly in motion. As he spoke, his eyes never left his crew, and we observed how the seasoned foreman worked to maintain constant communication, ensuring safe and efficient completion of the work.

Running a crew and job like this takes years of training, exposure, and experience. McAvoy explained that before anyone can assume a leadership role, they must have proper training, lots of exposure to the work, and the right tutelage. He explained that on this day he upgraded to Foreman (his base classification is Journeyman Lineman). He talked about some of the various trainings he himself had undertaken — such as how to operate specific equipment, how to perform hot work in rubber gloves, as well as all the OSHA rules which must be adhered to in order to maintain a safe work environment — before even considering taking an upgrade to foreman and assuming the responsibility of running a crew.



We watched as the crew prepared to perform a “cut and kick.” This method is used when there are facilities on the pole that must remain in the same position they were found. In this case, the pole housed a weather station and communications riser that could not be moved. In addition, keeping the line energized was the method chosen so as to not impact those customers being served by the circuit.

When the prep work was complete, McAvoy took his position as the lead to get the pole safely moved. He directed McMahan to operate the truck, which would safely and securely hold the pole being moved. He directed Degnan, responsible for cutting the existing pole, to take her position and begin cutting on his mark. He made sure all were clear and took a moment to check the surroundings, making sure he and the crew had checked all the boxes. Once he was sure all was safe and secure, he gave the go ahead for the cutting to begin. He watched the chainsaw from a distance and gave the chainsaw operator hand signals to make sure a proper cut took place. Once he gave the stop signal, he turned his attention to the truck operator and began giving hand signals to move the pole. Showcasing that kind of expertise only comes from on-the-job experience and meticulous training, the crew worked seamlessly to safely move the pole out of the way.

Clearly this isn’t a set of tasks that happens easily. Training comes in during every step of the operation — even the hand signals they use to communicate with one another must be learned through training.

As a 1st Step Apprentice, Elaine Degnan recognizes that the rigors of



VIDEO: IBEW 1245 Line Crew Performs “Cut and Kick” Pole Replacement

www.ibew1245.com/video



PG&E GC Line Humboldt Crew, from left: 7th Step Apprentice Lineman Casey Kinney, 1st Step Apprentices Eric Garcia and Elaine Degnan, Lineman Garrett Ennis, Miscellaneous Equipment Operator Chris McMahan, and General Construction Subforeman A Luke McAvoy. WIPF Construction Vacuum Truck Crew (not pictured): Truck Operator Ralph Lucero and Groundman Rodney Leach

her apprenticeship training are what will ultimately keep her safe as she pursues her lifelong dream to be a journeyman lineworker.

“If we aren’t properly trained, we don’t go home,” she said, noting the possibility of grave repercussions that can come from just one wrong move.

Although she isn’t yet qualified to perform “hot work” using Primary Rubber Gloves, exposure to these types of jobs is how Degnan learns and prepares to assume that responsibility down the line. She emphasized how much she values her more experienced crewmates to guide her in ensuring each step is taken properly and safely.

“I trust these guys with my life,” she underscored.



Once the pole was out of the way, a contractor moved their equipment in to assist in removing the piece of pole left behind from the cut pole and to clean out the hole with a vacuum truck in preparation for the new pole. Watching those two IBEW 1245 members, Truck Operator Ralph Lucero and Groundman Rodney Leach work, was impressive as well. The knowledge and training they exhibited with respect to their equipment was clear. They communicated expertly with McAvoy and the crew, completing the task without incident.



This was just one of 50 poles to be changed out as part of this particular fire-hardening project, which also has various areas where undergrounding of power lines would be a necessity.

When thinking about the project these hard-working members have ahead of them, I can confidently say it will be handled safely and efficiently. In true 1245 fashion, they all demonstrated excellent communication skills, and were clearly well trained and comfortable in their roles. It brings me great pride to see IBEW 1245 members performing this critical work to make our communities safer and less susceptible to wildfire.

— Roberto Balistreri, IBEW 1245 Assistant Business Manager



Stockton

March 31, 2023

*Congratulations on
your service!*



50 Years From left: Ronald Jones with President Cecelia De La Torre



45 Years From left: Jaime Perez with (De La Torre)



40 Years

Front row, from left: Roderick Brown and Darlene Ravera. Back row, from left: Executive Board Members Steve Segale and Rachel Segale, (De La Torre) and Business Rep Sheila Lawton



30 Years

Front row, from left: Paula Rivera and Gerritt Matthews. Back row, from left: Fernando Morales, (De La Torre) and Timothy Owens

Photos by John Storey



35 Years

From left: David Higgins, (De La Torre), Michael Basinger and Executive Board Member Steve Segale



25 Years

Front left: Jose Ferrufino, Business Rep Francisco Ferreyra Jr, Ricardo Barajas and Jose Alvarez Blanco

HONOREES

5 years

Arms, Ashley
Arreola, Alex
Avalos, Jonathan
Avila, Sergio
Battle, Leonard
Bechthold, Jacob
Bedsaul, Kenny
Bizzini, Kyle
Burkley, Brian
Cabrera, Jose
Caires, Kyle
Calderon, Juan Carlos
Cannon, Michael
Caringello, James Jr.
Cartisano, Joshua
Cary, Michael
Castro, Darin
Castro, Davin
Catudloc, Joshua
Cedeno, Hector
Ceja Ferrer, Juan Raul
Cervantes, Guillermo
Chavez, Joel Jr.
Clayton, Austin
Cochran, Bradley
Copriviza, Scott
Davis, Jesse
Defreitas, Ed
Deherrera, Nicholas
Dibble, Justin
Douglas, Billy Jr.
Elkins, Brian
Ernst, Robert
Farfan, Martin
Ferreyra, Ernesto
Ferreyra Hernandez, Baltazar
Ferreyra Vasquez, Baltazar
Ferreyra Vazquez, Gaspar

Fluid, Alexander
Fryer, Rodney II
Garcia, Uziel
Gavaldon, Jayson
Gonzalez, Arturo
Gonzalez-Ulloa, Marintia
Griffith, Kyle
Hampton, Thomas
Hanson, Luafton
Hernandez, Stephen
Herrera, Jose
Hickman, Jeff
Holmes, Logan
Howard, Lucas
Jauregui, Ian
Jefferson, Sean
Jimenez, Diego
Jones, Gavin
Landa, Amador
Lee, Justin Sr.
Lehmann, Eric
Lehnertz, Cobe
Leyno, Justin
Looney, Chris
Maltese, Zach
Mancilla, Albaro
Martin, Alex
Martin, Philip
McGee, James Sr.
Melchor, David
Melhor, David
Meyers, James
Moreno Ambriz, Rigoberto
Mozingo, Dylan
Northcutt, Brandon
Olsen, Johnathan
Orosco, Trent
Paculba, Randy
Pagni, Michael
Perez, Juan
Perez, Jose Jr.
Phillips, Marcus

Piggee, Marshion Sr.
Pulido, Oscar
Rasmussen, Joey
Ray, Matthew
Reinhardt, Sean
Ridenour, Justin
Roberts, Colby
Robles, Benjamin
Salgado, Miguel
Shamrock, Sean
Sibbet, Matthew
Spradling, Bree
Stanley, Joshua
Stewart, Kyle
Strapp, Nick
Tapia, Alfredo
Tellez Gonzalez, Carlos Sr.
Terra, Bailey
Toledo, Christian
Trinos, Ernie
Velazquez Sanchez, Victor
Verdusco, Saul
Verduzco, Jose
Weber, Robert Jr.
Wiley, Jason
Wolfe, Andrew
Worley, Joseph
Wylie, Jordan

10 years

Abundis, Juan Jr.
Adams, Jonathan
Aguirre, Marcos
Akhbari, Shannon
Alcantor, Spencer
Ali, Mohammed
Amate, Troy Michael
Amezcu, Roseanna
Aparicio, Alberto
Arroyo, Henry Jr.
Arvizu, Ramon Jr.

Aton, James
Bailey, Scott
Beckmann, Justin
Beneda, Larry Jr.
Bereta, Joseph
Boutwell, Charles Jr.
Brovont, Daniel
Callaway, Kendall
Campbell, Michael
Campiotti, Donald
Cardoza, Christina
Castle, Staci
Clark, Ryan
Cody, Mitchel
Costalupes, Steven
Covello, Amanda
Davis, Jeff
Delgado, Brian
Dennis, Zachary
Donohue, Bobbie
Emslie, William Jr.
Eubanks, Timothy
Feichter, Scott
Finley, Patrick
Flake, Myralene
Freeman, Niles
Gardner, Russell
Giddens, Jennifer
Gonzalez, Christopher
Gonzalez, Tiffany
Guzman, Rafael
Helms, Thomas
Hernandez, Christopher
Hinkle, Bryan
Holman, Devin
Hornsey, Chase
Hose, Denise
Izquierdo, Adrian
Jarero, Jazmin
Jewell, Evelyn
Jones, Latrina
Jones, Scott
Kara, Tom
Kayser, Jerry
Kotko, Adam
Kuchan, Mitchell
Kuryla, Taylor

Le, Kong
Lewis, Dominique
Mahler, Ryan
Malcria, Jerrid
Manzo, Jose
Manzo, R Alex
Mason, Justin
McCracken, Robert
McKinstry, Adam
Meda, Victor
Mitchell, Dionysia
Morales, Diane
Muniz, John III
Newman, Nicholas
Norgard, Tye
Ortega, John
Osuna, Ricardo
Ott, Steven
Pagnucci, Nicholas
Pate, Johnnie
Patton, Micah
Quinto, Diosdado
Rackleff, Aaron
Ramirez, Lorena
Ribar, Thomas
Rice, Lois
Richey, Craig
Salazar, Kennetha
Sanchez, Janie
Shippy, Skyler
Skinner, Zackary
Solis, Adrian
Stellhorn, Robert
Stillwell, Jessica
Stum, Neil
Summers, Anthony
Sweeny, Monica
Teske, Kevin
Tinoco, Georgiana
Tweten, Scott
Ualesi, Feleti
Ussery, Kimberly
Valencia-Ortiz, Oscar
Vaughan, Aaron
Walker, Brenden
Wolfenbarger, David

Wright, Brandon
Zuehlke, Aileen

15 years

Allen, Mark
Bell, Gary
Bezaitis, Harry
Bracamontes, Brenda
Bracamontes, Hilario
Bustamante, Luz
Cabrera, Kelly
Cachu, Cathleen
Caldwell, Greg
Campos, Tomas Jr.
Carnes, Kevin
Castro, Gaspar
Corbin, Sean
Coria, Xavier
Delarosa, Diana
Dobales, Stephanie
Dosier, Michael
Ellis, Melissa
Encalade, Anthony
Ferrebee, William
Ferreyra, Francisco Jr.
Franco, Gregorio
Garibaldi, Anthony
Gerolaga, Shirley
Gomez, Julie
Guidone, Salvatore Jr.
Gutierrez, Luis
Hall, Katarzyna
Halliday, Ray
Hanson, Michael
Harrison, Miranda
Hendrix, Ryan
Hernandez, Francisco
Jimenez, Albert
Johal, Inder
Johnson, Valerie
Macias, Manuel
Maestas, Judy
Martinez, Rhonda
Masterman, Adam
McInnes, David
McIntosh, Kelly
Moreno, Adan

Mott, Chase
Nelson, Darren
Nieto, Juan
Ontiveros, Reynaldo
Perry, Jaime
Pinon, Rita
Pitt, Jacob
Ramos, Joshua
Rice, Tom
Saramago, Teresa
Stewart, John
Suarez, Jose
Tablit, Gregory
Thrasher, Troy
Trimeloni, Bradley
Valles, Richard
Wells, Jason
White, Kenetra
Willadsen, Sean
Zaballos, Jeffrey

20 years

Astrup, Scott
Ap'e, Melissa
Aranda, Manuel Jr.
Arbelo Lugo, Javier Sr.
Bassard, Autumn
Bryant, Jill
Buenrostro, Justin
Burnett, Ryan
Castillo, Jose
Castillo, Megan
Davis, David
De La Torre, Eduardo
Downey, Marcus
Eldred, Brian
Flores, Rosa
Ford-Dal Bianco, Shauna
Gibbs, Kelly
Granillo, David
Guevara, Dolores
Hulligan, Benjamin
Hutchings, Jonathan
Law, John
Lien, Scott
Lloyd, Gregory

Longley, Nicole
Madrigal, Victor
Marquez, Ricardo
Martinez, Romanic
Mendoza, Jesus
Mitchell, Robert
Myers, Kenneth Jr.
Noonkester, James
Norwood, Joshua
Ordez, Jaclin
Pedersen, Douglas
Piecarka, Mark
Porter, Kelly
Rehman, Saeed
Rivera, Eduardo
Rodriguez, Robert
Smith, Corey
Smyers, Dale
Stoops, Ryan
Tarp, Christopher
Tremayne, David
Underwood, Leland
Vang, Peng
Vann, Lauren
Ward, Chad
Ward, Pearl
Wong, Joseph Jr.
Zamudio, Fernando
Zepeda, Jason

25 years

Alvarez Blanco, Jose
Campos, Sergio
Copeland, Timothy
Crawford, Pierre
D Ottavio, Greg
Ferrufino, Jose
Frasier, Kevin
Galindo, Frank
Gomez, Enrique
Guerrero, Raul
Lamborn, Elton
Little, Kenneth
Podesta, Michael
Russell, Carrie
Skamel, Timothy

Weese, Travis

30 years

Denfip, Marion
Hang, Stanley
Matthews, Gerritt
Owens, Timothy
Rivera, Paula
Simien, Charles
Vanderpol, Frank III
Vanoostende, John
Word, David

35 years

Altom, Gary
Arnold, Daren
Basinger, Michael
Cordova, Guillermina
Garcia, Fred
Higgins, David
Justis, Kindal
Kollman, Mark
Tablit, Matthew

40 years

Brown, Roderick
Cordova, Alfonso
Hood, Alicia
Meadows, Peter
Mendoza, John
Ravera, Darlene
Thormann, William

45 years

Benning, Phillip
Ding, Jeffrey
Gilbert, Craig
Lara, Gary
Laws, Zachery
Meyn, Dan
Owens, Brian
Perez, Jaime

50 years

Jones, Ronald
Wofford, Michael



30 Years

Front row, from left: Melissa Ap'e, Justin Buenrostro and Nicole Longley. Back row, from left: Jill Bryant, Kelly Gibbs and Jaclin Ordez



25 Years

Front row, from left: Jose Ferrufino and Jose Alvarez Blanco President. Back row, from left: Elton Lamborn, (De La Torre) and Ricardo Barajas



20 Years

Front row, from left: Benjamin Hulligan and Pearl Ward. Back row, from left: James Noonkester and Dale Smyers



15 Years

Front row, from left: Stephanie Dobales and Brenda Bracamontes. Back row, from left: Cathleen Cachu, Hilario Bracamontes and Rachel Segale



10 Years

Front row, from left: Jessica Stillwell and Adrian Solis. Back row, from left: James Aton and Ryan Mahler



15 Years

Front row, from left: Melissa Ellis, Miranda Harrison and Albert Jimenez. Back row, from left: Juan Nieto, Xavier Coria and Francisco Ferreyra Jr.



10 Years

Front row, from left: Amanda Covello, Myralene Flake and Aileen Zuehlke. Back row, from left: Jazmin Jarred, Staci Castle, Denise Hose, Evelyn and Jewell-Koinzan



5 Years

From left: Jayson Gavaldon and Justin Lee



SERVICE AWARDS

Additional

HONOREES

5 years

Abilez, Issac
Aburto, Cesar
Alvarado, Matt
Anderson, Joseph
Andrade, Kevin
Arredondo, Jose Jesus
Badillo, Harvey
Bailey, Bradley
Bailey, Scott
Banegas Jimenez, Roberto
Barrios, George
Bell, Darin
Bell, Joseph
Beltran, Juan
Benitez, Alejandro
Benitez, Victorino
Bergman, Carter

Bosarge, Vincent
Boyt, Darren
Breza, Michael
Brown, Jonathan
Burklet, Brett
Burns, Michael
Burrell, Joshua
Camp, John
Canales, Oscar
Carlson, Josh (Chance)
Carrera, Lauro
Cisneros, Ralph Jr.
Clemens, Aaron
Cooper, Bryson
Corrales, Aldo
Cortez, Bricio
Couvillion, Blake Sr.
Dennis, Sterling
Elliott, Justin
Espinal, David

Felipe, Bernardo Jr.
Ferre, Christopher
Fettingner, George
Fitz, Yurico
Ford, Stacey
Fordahl, Justin
Fruchter, Daniel
Galan, Juan Carlos
Galan Vazquez, Jesus
Garcia, Severo
Garcia Pineda, Samuel
Garner, Ira
Gevondyan, Artin
Gomez, Nolberto
Gonzalez, Cesar
Gonzalez, Juan
Gove, Jeremy
Grandia, John
Guzman, Rigo
Harlan, James

Hoffman, James
Huerta, Pablo
Hull, Phillip
Johnson, Neil
Jones, Travis
Kyle, Dennis Jr.
Lawrence, Mathew
Lindgren, Benjamin
Liner, Derrick
Lockhart, Steven
Lopez, Manuel
Lopez, Horacio Jr.
Maldonado, Efen
Mason, William
McDonald, Trevor
Monteaux, Brian
Montemayor, Dean
Montoya, Eduardo
Morales, Carlos
Morales, Miguel
Muratalla, Jose Omar
Navarro, Ricardo
Nease, Jeremy
Nelson, Brandy
Nieto, Jose
Otero, Michael
Oubre, Euley II
Paniagua, Jose
Paniagua, Raul
Parker, Cody
Pascual, Pablo Juan
Perez, Carlos
Perschka, Todd
Pierce, Christopher
Plotts, Andrew
Quintana, John

Ramirez, Ricardo
Ravert, Brandon
Reynoso, Alfonso
Rhodes, Jon
Rimrodt, Tod
Rivas, Gabriel
Rivas, Sebastian
Rivera, Jose Luis
Rivera, Oscar
Robles, Heriberto Jr.
Roldan, Alejandro Sr.
Romero, Alejandro
Romero, Jose
Romero, Ruben Cesar
Romero, Victor
Romero, Luis Sr.
Rosas, Bryant
Rubio, Salvador
Sandoval, John Jr.
Sargent, Scott
Sierra, Vicente
Sorenson, Karen
Stephens, Richard
Tapia, Liborio
Teuscher, Aaron
Thomas, Daniel
Turcott, Gregory
Valencia, Orlando
Vancamp, Jeffery Jr.
Velasquez, Elmer
Veldhuis, Toby
Verduzco, Jorge
Villatoro, Melvinafredro
Webb, John
Williams, Anthony Jr.

Wilson, Joe

10 years

Andrade, John
Armstrong, Feiamma
Badillo, Harold
Banwarth, Kelly
Berg, Dane
Beyer, Henry
Boren, Tanner
Bowersox, Robert
Christman, Gregory
Dorning, Timothy
Duffy, Christopher
Echegoyen, Trentin
Flux, Dale
Gray, Tracy
Hermansen, Kyle
Hess, Jared
Hillquist, Scott
Kuhn, Bryan
Lammers, Trevor
Larson, Tyler
Macias, Alexandro
Marsh, Kenneth
McClung, Cheri
McClung, Ian
McGinnis, Grant
Melendez, Mario
Mkrtychyan, Joseph
Neddermeyer, William Jr.
Nunez, Juan Jr.
Riggs, Aaron
Rosas, Miguel
Sanchez, Michael

Shultz, Aaron
Silva, Ruben
Vazquez, Jose
Williams, Clint

15 years

Buschmann, Gregg
Canete, Bo
Carlson, Anna
Carlson, Gary
Carrasco, Marcos
Christman, Gregory
Cunliffe, Andrew
Ericson, Dean
Fisher, Ronald
Glover, Ralph
Goddard, Jonathan
Gray, Caleb
Hallman, Thomas
Henry, Chris
Hooker, Brian
Jarvis, Darin
Jones, David
Keller, Allen
Kemper, David
Lizanetz, Van
Maslar, Trajan
Moore, Johnathan
Odgers, Brenda
Odgers, John
Olson, James
Ritola, Robert
Smith, Paul
Snyder, Joseph
Tillman, Chris Jr.
York, Dustin

20 years

Apitz, Scott
Burnell, David
Coscarat, Juan
Criner, Russell
Danieluk, Peter
Dupree, Marcus
Freeman, Jeremy
Harmon, Bryan
Heath, Jason
Humbert, Anthony
Malmberg, Matthew
Maumau, Maake
Maxfield, Ryan
McIntire, Robby
Medeiros, Mike
Montoya, Jose
Murray, Sean
Newgaard, Mike
Roberts, William
Schumacher, Tony
Whitlow, Ronald
Young, Shylo
Yourchek, John

25 years

Allen, Derrick
Barron, Jason
Clark, William
Coulson, Aaron
Cox, Gregory
Davis, Ben
Dugas, Clifford
Federline, Chris
Logan, Aileen
Lousignont, James

Maslonka, Dustin
Miller, Steven
Muegge, Jon
Williams, Lacey

30 years

Dempsey, Rita
Evanitus, Marc
Grant, Brian
Muno, John
Palm, Jeffrey
Smith, Breck
Smith, Robert
Walsh, Theodore (Ted)

35 years

Bailey, David
Engen, Richard
Johnson, Richard
Lyle, Daniel
Shields, Eric
Stoker, David

40 years

Campos-Ayala, Alice
Davis, Greg
Devers, James
Gay, Daniel
Hargreaves, Rodney
Lamb, Robert
Millar, Robert
Tomlin, Randy

55 years

Mai, Gary



SERVICE AWARDS

San Luis Obispo March 10, 2023



25 Years Front row, from left: Lynne Goldhammer and Caleb Waters. Back row, from left: Chris Fong and (Dean)



15 Years Front row, from left: James Faulkner and Michael Ruiz. Back row, from left: Michael Meagher and Executive Board Member Jeremy Winn



10 Years Front row, from left: Andrew Racette and Joseph Coughran. Back row, from left: Dustin Shultz and (Winn)



45 Years
Front row, from left: Kelly Ackerson and Mario Perez. Back row, from left: Business Manager Bob Dean, Robert Ellis and Business Rep Jerry Camacho

Photos by
John Storey



20 Years Front row, from left: Phillip Farris and Executive Board Member Willie Garriss. Back row, from left: Christopher Lovett and Larry Kelley



10 Years Front row, from left: Alfredo Guerrero and Michael Irick. Back row, from left: Scott Sepulveda, Michael Yates and (Winn)

Congratulations on your service!

HONOREES

5 years

Arriaga, Vicente
Baker, Sean
Begley, Timothy
Bermejo Cervantes, Juan
Carlson, Christopher
Diaz Amezcua, Ricardo
Disuanco, Erik
Fink, Ray
Frigon, Dan
Green, John
Hanke, Heath
Hurni, Thomas
Jepsen, Peter
Kelley, Matthew
Magneson, Martin
Maldonado Gomez, Adan Fernando
Martinez, Pedro
Millar, Scott
Muller, Adrian
Mullikin, Michael
Noriega, Prospero
Padilla, Ramiro

Pena, Edward Jr.
Pina, Eric
Poindexter, Nicholas
Rodda, Russell
Roden, Patrick
Rodriguez-Rodriguez, Jose
Rowlett, James
Ruiz, Carlos Sr.
Schultz, Christina
Shean, Haley
Sherwood, Richard
Spurgeon, Clayton
Stieg, John
Waller, Timothy
10 years
Angeloni, Mitchell
Apodaca, Johnny
Aubery, Richard
Bagley, Kevin
Baker, Noley
Banton, Michael
Benyo, Jeffery
Brockway, Michael
Choate, Harry
Clark, Matthew

Coughran, Joseph
Curran, Stephen
Devalle, Jacob
Dominguez, Andrew
Echevarria, Hipolito
Elliott, Brent
Gonzalez, Manuel
Guerrero, Alfredo
Hadick, Clayton
Hollister, Stephen
Irick, Michael
Leader, Shiloh
Mcneil, Steven
Mendoza, Josue
Ochoa, Cesar
Olnick, Ryan
Parker, Brent
Quaresma, Matthew
Racette, Andrew
Sage, Matthew
Sanchez, Victor
Schultz, Dustin
Sedgwick, Ryan
Sepulveda, Scott
Sims, Paul
Tarwater, David

Witt, Spencer
Yates, Michael
Zack, Anthony

15 years

Anderson, Keith
Beasley, Steven
Britton, Angela
Burkett, James
Contreras, Alberto
Dephillips, Mathew
Faulkner, James
Ferrauiolo, Robert
Griffin, Matthew
Kelley, Shaun
Losure, Jason
Meagher, Michael
Murray, Jennifer
Oglesby, Gary
Oglesby, Greg
Pass, Frances
Ponce, Solin
Rademacher, Nicholas
Ruiz, Michael
Simpson, Ronald
Stewart, Paul
Stirland, Ian
Stumph, Gregory
Uc, Michelle

20 years

Baldwin, Mariette
Branson, Jeff
Craig, Mark
Croomb, Lonny
Farris, Phillip
Field, Amy
Gallegos, Gonzalo
Goff, Jeremy
Helberg, Joseph
Jimenez, John Jr.
Kelley, Larry
Knutson, Dustin
Lincer, Evan
Livingston, Catherine
Lovett, Christopher
Maldonado, Francisco
Mendoza, Tony
Meyers, Leonard Jr.
Mirau, Bradley
Neilson, Toric
Paez, Alfred
Parks, Shaun
Pittman, Russell
Ramey, Jennifer
Rotta, Barbara
Russell, Marjorie
Senita, Paul
Stuart, Darren

Swanson, Brennen
Trevino, Jesus

25 years

Carter, Eric
Fong, Chris
Goldhammer, Lynne
Maldonado, Benito
Stocks, Daniel
Waters, Caleb

30 years

Laguna, Rick
Roben, Michael
Valdez, Manuel

35 years

Gutierrez, Jerry
Lathrop, James
Sanders, James

40 years

Ashford, Darren
Hamby, Glenn
Wilson, Mark

45 years

Ackerson, Kelly
Ellis, Robert
Helberg, Michael
Perez, Mario



5 Years

Front row, from left: Adrian Muller, Edward Pena Jr. and (Winn). Back row, from left: Peter Jepsen, Christina Shultz and Vicente Arriaga



5 Years Front row, from left: Pedro Martinez, (Winn), Timothy Waller. Back row, from left: Ramiro Padilla, Business Rep Abel Sanchez and Richard Sherwood



SERVICE AWARDS

Eureka
March 3, 2023

Congratulations on your service!



20 Years

From left: Assistant Business Manager Mike Adayan, Dale Hicks and Chris Fee



15 Years

From left: Julie Darling with (Adayan)

Photos by John Storey

HONOREES

5 years

Blum, Erika
Deeds, Dyrin
Emery, Edward
Glidden, Garrett
Johns, Nathan
Kaufman, Cliff
Logan, James
Lungi, David Jr.
Morris, Steven

Mosier, Thomas III

Richardson, Justin
Torgersen, Brett
Wilkinson, Joshua

10 years

Arias, David
Barry, David
Blake, Sa-Gep
Buckner, Derek

Cruz, Jacob

Curnow, Raymond
Gorman, Jimmy
Gruetzmacher, Ricky
Hein, Tyler
Nixon, William
Romero, Nicolas
Thompson, Ryan
Thurman, Donna
Wakeman, Steven

15 years

Darling, Julie
Griffith, Michael
Marsh, Sean
McDonald-Williams, Jeremiah
Rychlik, Louis
Young, Greg

20 years

Cyphers, Michael

Del Grande, Michael
Fee, Chris
Goerss, Christina
Hicks, Dale
Nickols, Timothy
Swanson, Wade
Velasquez, Johnathon

25 years

Rapich, Robert

40 years

Rasmussen, Jeff



10 Years From left: Ryan Thompson and Ricky Gruetzmacher and (Adayan)



5 Years From left: Steven Morris with (Adayan)



SERVICE AWARDS

Ukiah
March 4, 2023



20 Years

From left: Harryll (Wayne) Baze with Assistant Business Manager Mike Adayan



10 Years

From left: Alvin Lyly with (Adayan)

Photos by John Storey



5 Years

Front row, from left: Justin Kile and Daniel Curtis. Back row, from left: Justin Molloy and (Adayan)

Congratulations on your service!

HONOREES

5 years

Balandran, Miguel
Angel
Bartholf, Joseph
Bleuss, Paul
Britton, Dustin
Cherney, Zachary
Clarke, Jason
Colberg, Robert
Cole, Tanner
Curtis, Daniel
Curtis, William
Dean, Lonnie
Grow, Alec
Kile, Justin
Kinney, Casey
Luna, Miguel Jr.
Martinez, Samuel

Massey, Nipsey
Mendez Alfaro, Jesus
Molloy, Justin
Newman, Kyle
Paeyeneers, Elliot
Pardini, Kevin
Reno, Robert
Villasenor, Efrain
Watson, Dean
Weil-Dye, Quinnlan
Ybarra, Gabriel

10 years

Alberigi, Monica
Beck, Charles
Bradley, Michael
Burns, Montana
Cooper, Christopher

Cowan, Gabriel
Davis, Keane
Dillon, Corey
Dolby, Daniel
Glass, Sammy
Guillory, Shane
Hicks, Tyler
Hunter, Blake
King, Nicholas
Krome, James
Lyly, Alvin
Medina, Dustin
Miller, Jordan
Orozco, Miguel
Pickering, Casey
Quinliven, Justin
Rumery, Cole
Sanderson, Ely

Wright, Belinda

15 years

Diaz, Ignacio
Folk, Joshua
Hennes, Kelby
Hernandez, Michael
Martinez, Alyssa
McCallum, Irvin
Meyer, Scott
Roberts, Brent
Southard, Jacob
Wisdom, Josh

20 years

Baze, Harryll
Bowlds, Darin
Gomes, Tony
Pusich, Chris
Schweikl, Scott
Scott, Brad
Sheldon, Kevin

Simerson, Cory
Vanderpool, Tobias

25 years

Beverlin, Shawn
Davis, Brandon

30 years

Hadley, Hollis Jr.
Mayfield, Steven

35 years

Apfel, Richard
Castaldo, Joseph
Lemley, Douglas

40 years

Kirchner, Brent
Vaught, T

45 years

Glaze, Terry



Units lend a helping hand

All of the following unit donations to various charitable organizations from November 2022 through March 2023 were approved by the IBEW 1245 Executive Board.

City of Santa Clara Unit #1411 donated \$500 to the Salvation Army in San Jose.

NCPA Unit #3710 donated \$500 to the Kelseyville Little League.

San Rafael Unit #3711 donated \$500 to the Adopt A Family of Marin program.

Templeton Unit #1217 donated \$500 to the Paso Robles Future Farmers of America.

Frontier Unit #4014 donated \$250 to Morada Little League and \$250 to Pleasant Grove High School Baseball.

Bakersfield Trees Unit #4724 donated \$500 to the Manchester City Team Organization.

N. Tahoe/CalPeco Unit #5232 donated \$250 to Adventure Risk Challenge and \$250 to Reno Soccer Club Tigers.

Manufacturing Unit #5000 donated \$500 to the Arroyo High School boys' soccer program.

Merced Unit #1123 donated \$200 to Atwater High School Boys Varsity Soccer and \$300 to Merced High School Girls Softball.

City of Roseville Unit #3512 donated \$500 to the Field of Dreams for Veterans in Colusa, CA.

Diablo Canyon Unit #1220 donated \$500 to the Golden Circle of Champions in Santa Maria, CA.

Santa Cruz Unit #1513 donated \$500 to the Live Oak Little League.

Stockton Unit #2511 donated \$500 to Aspire Public Schools in Stockton.

Fort Bragg Unit #3717 donated \$500 to the Coast Youth Soccer League.

Templeton Unit #1217 donated \$500 to the 2023 Paso Robles Youth Baseball program.

Buellton Unit #1221 donated \$500 to the Santa Ynez High School's ASB Safe & Sober Grad Nite.

City of Redding Unit #3217 donated \$500 to the Foothill High School wrestling team.

Napa Trees & VC Unit #4710 donated \$500 to Mira Monte Wrestling Team.

Fresh Pond/SMUD Unit #3912 donated \$500 to the City of Placerville Parks & Recreation in support of the 2nd and 6th grade boys basketball teams.

Richmond Unit #2318 donated \$250 to Rodeo Baseball Association and \$250 to Broadway Rhythm Dance Company in Pinole.

Shasta Unit #3218 donated \$250 to Nor-Cal Nationals Girls Fast Pitch and Shasta Dam Kilowatts/Big League Dreams.

Sacramento Clerical Unit #3801 donated \$75 to Del Campo High School AJROTC and \$150 to The Fred Ross Project.

Yerington Retirees donated \$500 to Yerington United Methodist Church's God's Pantry which provides personal hygiene and household products.

Marin Trees Unit #4722 donated \$500 to the Forza Black Oak FC.



Support for IBEW 1245 Member Hit By Stray Bullet

In November of 2022, IBEW 1245 member Kristerphir Rochon was struck by a stray bullet while working as a Gas Compliance Rep for PG&E in Oakland. Brother Rochon, a seven-year member of the union, was paralyzed from the waist down and can no longer work to provide for his four-year-old daughter.

He and his family could use our support during this difficult time. Please contribute what you can using the link <https://www.gofundme.com/f/get-kris-back-on-his-feet>



Unit #5000, Manufacturing, contributed \$500 from the Community Fund to the Arroyo Boys Soccer Team.

IBEW 1245 Manufacturing Unit Supports Local Soccer Team

IBEW 1245 Unit #5000, Manufacturing, donated \$500 from the IBEW 1245 Community Fund to support the Arroyo High School boys' soccer team. The donation comes as a significant boost to the team's financial resources, which they can use to improve their overall performance, both on and off the field. The generous contribution will enable the team to purchase new equipment and gear, such as soccer balls, cones, and practice nets. Additionally, they can buy new uniforms, which will not only help them look professional on the field but also

give them a sense of pride and motivation to represent their school.

The manufacturing unit recognizes the importance of sports in the community and the positive impact it can have on the youth. Through this donation, our unit has shown our commitment to the well-being and development of the community's younger generation. It sends a message that everyone can contribute towards the betterment of the community and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

— Arnaldo Lizarraga, IBEW 1245 Manufacturing Unit Chair

Support for IBEW 1245 Member Involved in Work Related Accident

On January 7, IBEW 1245 member Jose Hernandez was the passenger in a fatal work related vehicle accident that left him with serious injuries. Brother Hernandez is a Journeyman Line Clearance Tree Trimmer with Mountain F. Enterprises and could use our support during this difficult time as he faces medical and travel expenses associated with his long recovery.

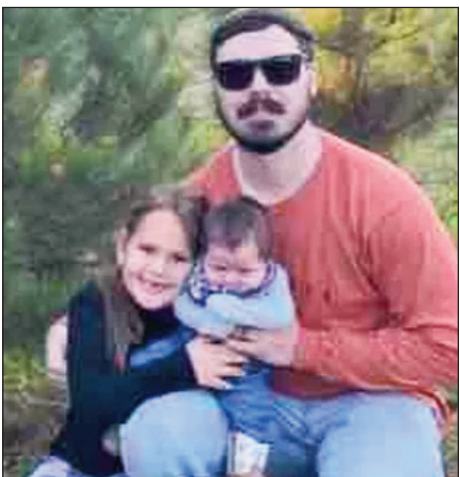


Please donate what you can and leave a message for the family using the link <https://www.gofundme.com/f/cover-the-costs-of-bills-dr-visits-to-come>



Support for CalNev JATC Apprentice Who Sustained Spinal Cord Injury

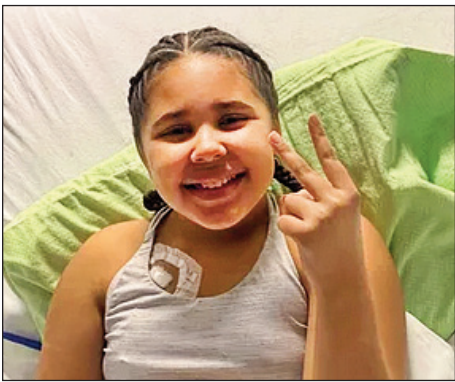
CalNev JATC Apprentice and one-year member Cole Pickett was recently involved in a non-work related accident which has left him hospitalized with a potentially life altering spinal cord injury. His family could use our support as they embark on this difficult journey. Please donate what you can using <https://www.gofundme.com/f/please-help-cole-with-extensive-medical-bills>



Support IBEW 1245 Member Whose Daughter Was Diagnosed with Cancer

Nine-year IBEW member Pat Finley's 11-year-old daughter Brooklyn was recently diagnosed with a rare type of cancer, rhabdomyosarcoma. Brooklyn will be undergoing an invasive treatment plan, including removal of the tumor, radiation, and chemotherapy. Her family reports that Brooklyn "continues to be happy, positive, and ready to take on this beast!"

The Finley family could use our support during this trying time to relieve any financial hardship for the treatment of their daughter, Brooklyn. Please donate what you can using the GoFundMe link <https://ibew1245.com/>



2023/02/03/support-ibew-1245-member-whose-daughter-was-diagnosed-with-cancer/



Support for IBEW 1245 Member Injured in Head On Collision

IBEW 1245 member Anthony Macera — a Nuclear Operator at DCP — was involved in a head-on collision on his way to work on Jan. 9, during the atmospheric river event. He was just hired six days prior to the accident, and unfortunately, because he is a new employee, he does not meet the eligibility requirements for FMLA. Brother Macera has a stay-at-home wife and a 14-month old son and had been working two jobs prior to gaining employment with PG&E.

As described in the GoFundMe, his extensive injuries include: a shattered right arm, both legs are severely broken with compound fractures, both femurs are broken, his clavicle is broken, he has several facial fractures, both cheek bones and his jaw are broken, his colon and small intestines ruptured, he has bruised lungs and many fractured ribs,



he has two fractured vertebrae in his back, and his right hip is fractured. Brother Macera's recovery and rehabilitation will be lengthy, any help will be so greatly appreciated. Contributions to the family can be made via the GoFundMe link <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-anthony-recover-after-head-on-collision>



Support for IBEW 1245 Journeyman Lineman Recovering From Foot Amputation

In February of 2022, IBEW 1245 member and 15-year Journeyman Lineman Jose Gonzalez suffered an injury which resulted in 14 fractures to his ankle. He has had six surgeries total since the incident, one of which was due to an infection in the bone, and resulted in the amputation of his foot about 7" below the knee.

Brother Gonzalez was able to finally start his recovery/therapy with his new prosthetic foot on February 10, 2023, and is hopeful he will start working again sometime in the next few months.

The past year since the accident has been exceedingly challenging, both financially and emotionally, for Gonzalez, his wife and their three children, Jojo (17), Ethan (16), and Seeley (7).

The Gonzalez family could use our support; please donate what you can using the link <https://www.gofundme.com/f/2fwejc-help-with-finances>



IBEW 1245 Members at LMUD Approve Five-Year Agreement

The union and LMUD began bargaining on January 9, reaching a tentative agreement on January 12, which was then ratified by the members on January 19. The agreement was approved by the LMUD Board on January 24. There were no concessions, and improvements include the following:

- GWI of 5% effective 03/01/23. (Members received a 5.6% GWI on 07/01/2022 coupled with a 5% increase on 03/01/2023 totals a 10.6% increase in wages within the same fiscal year).
- Year 2, CPI-U West Pacific, effective 07/01, floor of 3%, ceiling of 5%
- Year 3, CPI-U West Pacific, effective 07/01, floor of 3%, ceiling of 5%
- Year 4, CPI-U West Pacific, effective 07/01, floor of 3%, ceiling of 5%
- Year 5, CPI-U West Pacific, effective 07/01, floor of 3%, ceiling of 5%
- FR Clothing yearly allowance of 1,000.00 for full-time users and 650.00 for part-time users, with an annual increase of 2.5%, in addition to an initial allotment of 2300.00. A 350.00 yearly boot allowance was also added for all Physical classifications;
- The addition of Orthodontia to the Dental Plan, with a 2500.00 annual maximum benefit;
- An increase from 800.00 to 1000.00 per week of on-call pay, plus an increase from 75.00 to 100.00 if a Holiday falls in the on-call week;
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day was added as a Holiday;
- The addition of Aunt and Uncle to the Immediate Family definition for Bereavement Leave and language for five days off instead of three;
- The District agreed that the benefits for eligible dependents covered at the time of the employee's retirement shall not cease with the employee's death, and an increase in the STD benefit from 1300.00 per to 1620.00 per week for a maximum of 25 weeks.

The committee consisted of members Neil Dockery, Michelle Langley, Sean Norvell, and Dave Vicondoa, 1245 Business Representative Mike Venturino, and 1245 Sr Assistant Business Manager Dylan Gottfried.

— Mike Venturino, 1245 Business Rep

Redding Power Production Bargaining Unit Ratifies First Agreement

The newly formed Redding Power Production bargaining unit, a subdivision of the City of Redding Electric bargaining unit, has ratified its first collective bargaining agreement. The three-year agreement includes general wage increases of 10-20% in 2023 based on classification and 5% in 2024 and 2025 for all classifications. Additionally, the following highlights were agreed to:

- All overtime at the double-time rate
- Meal allowances are provided at \$38.50 per meal
- Addition of Juneteenth Holiday in exchange for the Columbus Day Holiday
- An increase to the LTD plan from \$3,000 to a maximum of \$7,000/month
- A standby policy that includes two hours of straight-time pay for each weekday (Monday-Friday); four hours of straight-time pay for each weekend (Saturday and Sunday); and six hours of straight-time pay for each fixed holiday

In exchange for these improvements, the union agreed to a reduction to the cap on the compensatory time off, an increased contribution to the CalPERS normal cost value, and an increase to the employee contribution to the City's Group Health Insurance base plan. Overall, there were significant gains for our members.

The IBEW 1245 negotiating team consisted of Jared Davis, Kyle Harder, Chris Holdren, and myself.

— Dominic McCurtain, IBEW 1245 Sr. Business Representative

Ken Ball

Ken Ball was Exhibit 1 in a presentation of great grievance handlers of the past. Business Manager Bob Dean reflected on his experience with Ball:

"I was one of a whole generation of reps that Ken mentored," Dean said. "He was the teacher, historian and enforcer of our grievance process."

To some extent, Ken and my lives tracked each other until we ended up at Local 1245 in the early 1980s.

Ken was born in 1951 and grew up in Salinas. I was born in 1951 and spent my twenties in Salinas, working for the United Farm Workers. Before getting hired on at PG&E, Ken worked in the vacuum coolers that got cartons of iceberg lettuce ready for shipping. The workers at the lettuce vacuum coolers where Ken worked were largely Anglos working at the top of the chain of workers who harvested lettuce.

We both knew, liked, and respected Jerry Breshears, the president of United Fresh Food and Commercial Workers, Local 78. Like almost everyone in the lettuce industry, the cooler workers like Ken worked piece rate. He knew hard work and made good money.

He was hired by PG&E on April 6, 1972 and joined Local 1245 as soon as he could. Mark Cook was the local business representative. Almost immediately, Ken became an active shop steward. He began a lifetime of knowing and researching grievance precedents. He also became master of the era's standards for unit meetings — brawls were common and accepted. When Ken saw members folding up their chairs before the meeting was over, he would silently head for the door. He told me, "A good run beats a bad fight."

After Jack McNally was elected Business Manager in 1980, Ken was one of Jack's first hires — on January 12, 1981. He worked as a Business Representative for a few years, and then was promoted to Assistant Business Manager as one of the Local's fact finders in the PG&E grievance procedure.

Ken worked in a time when computer literacy was neither assumed nor innate in the job. He was an old-school grievance handler, relying on meticulously organized binders filled with precedent organized by contract section rather than a computer database.

Ken was a unionist. He taught his children to never cross a picket line, to never drink Coors Beer and to never shop at the Star Market in Salinas. They remember him studying grievances in his chair. His son Greg remembers — "Corporate lawyers were no match for Kenny Ball!" Mike Haentjens remembers that Ken's kids knew that they could never lie to their dad. He told them "I catch liars for a living" and that he had a strong talent for detecting BS.

As a Fact Finder, Ken was on the road more than half the time. When he went to Fact Finding meetings, he was prepared to a T. He had high standards for the reps. As we started a vigorous internal training program for business reps and shop stewards, Ken's gifts as a teacher and public speaker came to the front. He was as good an educator as we had. If you went through training with him, you know what I mean when I say that he was a good teacher.

He vigorously represented the Union, and civility towards and respect for company representatives

had to be earned, but his sense of humor was free. If I were a PG&E employee, I could wish for no better representation than what Ken gave.

He was a jovial and joyful presence in the office on days he came in. In the weeks before Christmas, he brought home-made tamales and fudge to the office. Both were as good as it gets.

The Union grievance-handling processes changed more than once, and Ken accepted the changes and adjusted himself to the new protocols — to the extent that they did not run counter to his principles and the way he was used to doing things.

Ken was a fierce defender of Jack McNally. At the 1983 internal Local 1245 vote count, when Jack was announced as the winner, Sam Tamimi made an unearthly camel call, and Ken Ball did a high-five that dislocated his shoulder and required surgery to repair.

Staff meetings were old-school when Ken got hired. He sat in a corner with a floating chorus of Ed Fortier, Dave Reese, Mike Haentjens, Frank Hutchins, and others. They were clever men. I laugh when I think of their humor.

When I was preparing for a PG&E arbitration, Ken Ball was my first stop. He knew the contract, the precedent and the case before us very well. More importantly, he knew what I would most want to know: the weaknesses in our case. He read and understood me. What a luxury! What a gift!

Mike Haentjens, a retired Business Representative, was close to Ball. "As a Fact Finder, Kenny was tenacious," Haentjens said. "Sometimes surly, sometimes rude to HR Reps. He would argue a case to the bitter end trying to come out on top. Even if he knew it was a losing case he was like a dog on a bone."

"Kenny liked to gamble. When the office moved to Vacaville we would usually make a trip to Cache Creek with Mazzanti. He was a funny guy he would joke about grievances about the staff about politics, but it wasn't all fun and games. He was dead serious about representing the members the best he could, through the grievance procedure."

Ed Dwyer was a Business Representative who worked below and then above Ball, whom he refers to as "The Bear."

Dwyer wrote: "I met Kenny when I became a Shop Steward. When I became a Business Rep working out of Bakersfield, he was the Fact Finder, my Senior Rep. Then I got an education. We met once a month to try and settle grievances that couldn't be resolved at the local level, he was quick, smart and could put the Company in their place. We had many an argument amongst ourselves on how to approach the Company to try to settle a particular grievance. You better know the contract and do your research before you brought the case to Kenny. And you better know the Fact Finding case decision 3588, one I will never forget and have repeated it verbatim on many occasions. In 2007, I was promoted to the Review Committee for the Union, then I was taking the grievances from Kenny that moved up from Fact Finding. The arguments seemed to get more heated but, we were always good friends and Union brothers through and through. He was also a trainer of new stewards at the Union Hall. If there was ever a more honest man and true Union leader I haven't met him."

Management representatives who worked with

Ball shared their impressions.

Laura Sellheim was a long-time PG&E manager. She wrote: "It's rare to work with someone who will passionately argue on behalf of his members one minute (while lacing the discussion with an impressive

array of expletives) and truly be your friend the next. But that was Ken. He had a big personality, and he would fill the room with it. We argued many Fact Finding cases during our numerous commutes (he would always drive) to Walnut Creek and back to the South Bay. As a balance to these often intense debates, he would speak of his sons and daughters whom he loved dearly. The most important person in his life was, of course, Cindy. She really should have been on the IBEW's payroll given all the support she provided to Ken, making our lives so much easier. Ken was fair — which can be hard to do when involved in intense debates — and always kept his sense of humor. He was a great friend and will be missed by all."

Joe DiMartini was in management at Diablo Canyon. He wrote that Ken was a strong advocate for employees and employee rights: "He was a forceful presence in Fact Finding Meetings, he still kept a good sense of humor. He didn't take the back and forth debating personally and did not expect you to take it personally. When he'd have enough in a meeting he would close his files, get up and sometimes jokingly proclaim, "I'm going to saturate this place with my absence," and then walk out. That always made me smile."

"One of my fondest memories of Ken in Fact Finding is when he came down to San Luis Obispo a day early to go out with Mike Haentjens and Dave Reece (then retired). Ken called the next morning and said they had stayed out all night and he wanted to cancel the Fact Finding meeting. I told him no way, that we were all there and we would just wait for them. They showed up several hours later, wearing sunglasses and much the worse for wear. Needless to say none of them were in a condition for work, except Ken Ball. Perhaps worse for the wear, he was still brilliant in Fact Finding."

I miss Ken. I am proud to have known him and to have seen the many ways in which he made Local 1245 better.

A celebration of life for Brother Ball is planned outdoors later this spring. Read his full obituary <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/monterey-herald/name/kenneth-ball-obituary?id=38512120>

— Tom Dalzell, former Business Manager of IBEW Local 1245



Ken Ball in 1981, shortly after he joined the union staff

Photo from IBEW 1245 archives

IN MEMORIAM

Edgar Castillo

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of 6-month IBEW 1245 member Edgar Castillo of Elk Grove, who lost his life in a work vehicle accident at the age of 37 while working to support the atmospheric river event.

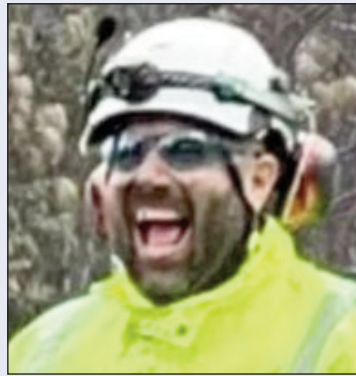
On January 7, Castillo, a Foreman working for Mountain F. Enterprises (a subcontractor for PG&E) and Journeyman Line Clearance Tree Trimmer Jose Hernandez, were traveling to clear debris in the city of Manchester while driving a 100' bucket truck in poor weather conditions and very steep terrain. For unknown reasons, the vehicle left the roadway and down an embankment resulting in the death of Castillo. At this time, the accident is still under investigation. The passenger, Hernandez, sustained serious injuries and is currently receiving care at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital.

IBEW 1245 and Mountain F. Enterprises have been working together to give comfort and assistance to the families of the members involved. There is a community of people affected by this tragic event and have come together in unity and gratitude.

"The work our members perform every day is dangerous enough, coupled with the recent storms and extreme environmental conditions, it has added another element to these hazards," said IBEW 1245 Sr. Assistant Business Manager Ralph Armstrong.

"This is a tragic loss to the families of these men and to everyone who knew them, as their lives have forever been altered," added Armstrong. "It's just tragic and heartbreaking."

Brother Castillo is survived by his wife Leticia, and five children, including twins. The Castillo family could use our support during this difficult time. Please contribute what you can using <https://www.gofundme.com/f/funeral-expenses-for-edgar-castillo>. Additionally, a vacation sale has been set up by the company, and PG&E employees can contribute by following this link <https://ibew1245.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Donating-on-the-Portal.pdf>



Edgar Castillo



IN MEMORIAM

Robert Harper

Robert "Bob" Harper (June 5, 1947–February 20, 2023) was a proud union member. The son of a PG&E lineman, Bob was a Lead Cable Splicer/Lineman. He started with IBEW 1245 in California, then moved to Hawaii, Oregon, and on to Arkansas where he resided most recently. During his time at Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), he was a shop steward. He worked outside line, from New York to California, and even in Puerto Rico, and referred to himself as an "I've been everywhere lineman." People thought Bob worked for the union. He was always telling young men and women to go down to the union hall, get a good job, and do it right. He knew you had to be able to work safe, and that meant going through the union hall.

Bob is survived by his loving wife, Mona, who enjoyed traveling alongside him whenever possible. Mona recalled Bob's dedication for the union and his work, "He reminded me of a retired fire horse hearing the alarm bells when a storm came, wishing he was on that storm break getting the power back on." In Mona's words, "Linemen are heroes, he was mine."



IN MEMORIAM

Perry Zimmerman

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of former IBEW 1245 Business Manager Perry Zimmerman, who served as the union's leader from 2001–2006.

"Perry was a mentor to us all and a great leader," said 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean. "He hired me as a Business Rep for 1245, for which I will be forever grateful. My heart goes out to Perry's whole family, especially his son and our 1245 colleague, Scott."

Zimmerman was initiated into IBEW Local 1245 in 1961 and started his union career as a laborer in the Gas Department at PG&E. He later worked as a gas serviceman and service operator, travelling all around the system. As an IBEW 1245 member at PG&E, he took on many roles within the union — shop steward, unit chair, and Advisory Council member. He eventually joined the IBEW 1245 staff as a Business Representative in 1981.

In 2001, he ran against 1245's longtime incumbent Business Manager, Jack McNally, and won. He moved quickly to heal the divisions of the contested election, and considers his first decision — naming Tom Dalzell to be his Senior Assistant Business Manager — one of the most important that he made in terms of re-establishing unity among the staff and membership.

As Business Manager, Zimmerman visited hundreds of worksites and insisted that his staff be visible as well. He consciously downshifted relations with the top brass at PG&E and focused on strengthening the union's traditional bargaining relationship with PG&E's Department of Industrial Relations.

During the first 16 months of Zimmerman's term, IBEW 1245 beat back three attempts by public power activists to engineer a municipal takeover of PG&E's assets in San Francisco. The most notable effort, Proposition D, would have given the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission responsibility for generating electricity for city residents — with no provisions to safeguard the wages, working conditions or union status of Local 1245 members working for PG&E in San Francisco.

"We have nothing against municipal power. We represent workers at many municipal utilities. But this particular measure threatened to displace thousands of our members while doing nothing to address San Francisco's energy supply problems, so we had no choice but to fight it," said Zimmerman.

In 2002, Zimmerman spear-headed the relocation of the IBEW 1245 union hall from Walnut Creek to Vacaville. Ronald T. Weakley Hall was opened in October of 2003 with 1245's founder, Ron Weakley,

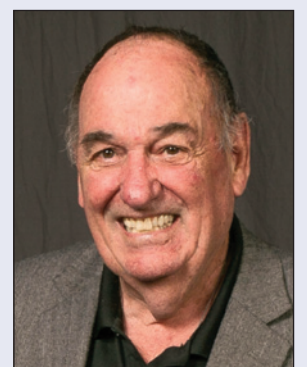
in attendance.

Zimmerman was re-elected as business manager in 2004, and retired in mid-2006, when the Executive Board appointed Dalzell as his successor.

"I will be leaving this job with no regrets. I have enjoyed every minute of serving you,"

he wrote in a message to the membership on the occasion of his retirement. "I will miss you and I will miss the chance to make your working lives better, but you'll do fine without me. I could not have accomplished even a small part of what I have accomplished over the last five years without your strong and constant support. I am grateful and humbled by the confidence that you have shown in my leadership and the support that you have given over the years."

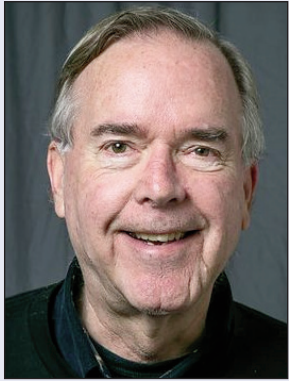
When he wasn't serving the union, Zimmerman enjoyed playing golf and poker, and spending time with his wife Delores and their blended family of seven children.



Perry Zimmerman in 2014

IN MEMORIAM

Fred Ross, Jr.



Fred Ross, Jr.

On November 20, 2022 IBEW 1245 organizer Fred Ross, Jr., passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. He died at home surrounded by his family and friends.

A legend in labor organizing circles, Brother Ross began his organizing career with the United Farm Workers (UFW) and later continued it with SEIU where he organized hospital workers, at UNITE HERE where he supported hotel workers, and ultimately with IBEW 1245.

His father, Fred Ross Sr., was an acclaimed organizer who developed multi-racial Community Service Organizations (CSO) and mentored Cesar Chavez,

Dolores Huerta and Gilbert Padilla, as they built the United Farmworkers' Union (UFW). Brother Ross followed his father to the fields and quickly steeped himself in the struggle for farm worker rights.

Fred's mother, Frances Lillian Gibson Ross, organized support systems for Dust Bowl refugees and refugees of the Spanish Civil War. She helped resettle Jewish physicians fleeing Nazi Germany and pioneered community mental health and independent living.

Fred's life-long partner and labor lawyer, Margo Feinberg, wrote living wage laws and was instrumental in developing the political strategies to deliver living wage ordinances across California and later the United States.

Brother Ross joined IBEW 1245 in 2009, leading the successful campaign to restore retiree medical benefits that had been unilaterally slashed by NV Energy. The battle took more than two years. "It had all the elements," Ross declared, including a plan, staff, member leaders, an 80+ members organizing committee, solidarity, action, media, back channels, and the extraordinary bargaining skill of 1245 leadership.

After the NV Energy victory and at the behest of former Business Manager Tom Dalzell, Brother Ross and his long-time organizing partner Eileen Purcell conceived and implemented IBEW 1245's Organizing Steward program — an intergenerational, multi-racial leadership development program that promotes hands-on learning. From contract fights to political fights in 1245's jurisdiction and across the United States, Organizing Stewards build and lead campaigns, learning-by-doing.

Brother Ross and the organizing team trained hundreds of IBEW 1245 members on the importance of organizing, solidarity, and political action, from the picket line to getting out the vote. Over the last ten years, IBEW 1245 has dispatched hundreds of Organizing Stewards to work campaigns, honing their skills and returning ready to fight the good fight at home.

After thirteen years with IBEW 1245, Brother Ross retired in February 2022. On his last day at the hall, he passed the torch to the Organizing Team with great pride and gratitude.

IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean and the Executive Board have continued to invest in the organizing work as we build the Brotherhood and Sisterhood.

In the recent 2022 midterm elections, IBEW 1245's organizing team — led by



United for Labor on Labor Day: IBEW 1245 Organizer Fred Ross Jr. (left) with UNITE HERE's Mike Casey and clergy activist Fr. Louie Vitale at the UNITE HERE local 2 Labor Day rally in support of hotel workers in San Francisco.

Assistant Business Manager/Organizer Rene Cruz Martinez and Organizers Charlotte Stevens, Rick Thompson, and Melissa Echeverria — oversaw the field operation of more than 100 Organizing Stewards, staff and volunteers who worked with Central Labor Councils across northern California and Nevada to safeguard working families' interests at the ballot box.

Brother Ross's lasting impact on IBEW 1245 will benefit our membership and the labor movement for years to come.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Ross family.

A public memorial was held Feb. 26 in San Francisco. Condolences to the family may be sent to FredRossMemories@gmail.com.

For further reading on Brother Ross' lifelong service to the labor movement:

- <https://aflcio.org/2022/11/23/service-solidarity-spotlight-rest-power-fred-ross-jr-1947-2022>
- <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2022/12/01/fred-ross-jr-obituary>
- <https://ufw.org/fred-ross-jr-s-matchless-organizing-talents-empowered-farm-and-other-workers/>
- <https://capitalandmain.com/fred-ross-jr-an-appreciation>

— Updated Statement by Business Manager Bob Dean
with contributions from Sr. Advisor Eileen Purcell

Visit <https://ibew1245.com/2022/12/15/in-memoriam-fred-ross-jr/> to view the full tribute, including words of remembrance submitted by IBEW 1245 members and leaders.



IBEW 1245 Organizer Fred Ross Jr. speaks as Fred Ross Sr. is inducted into the California Hall of Fame at the California Museum in Sacramento, Calif., on Friday, November 7th, 2014.



IBEW 1245 Organizer Fred Ross Jr. speaks to Organizing Stewards.

Photos by John Storey

IN MEMORIAM

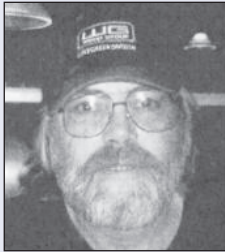
Harold Harms

30-year IBEW 1245 member and retiree Harold Everett Harms, passed away on December 21, 2022 at his home in Yerington.

Harold was born April 17, 1952 in Reno, Nevada the son of Donald and Margaret Harms. He grew up in sparks and graduated from Sparks High School. He worked as a lineman for many years with Sierra Pacific Power Company and Par Electrical Contractor. He was predeceased by his parents, his wife and love of his life of 33 years, Sherrill Harms, his sister, Donna Winters, brother-in-law, George Winters; his brother, Edward and a grandson, Matthew Sutton. He is survived by his daughters, Shaunna Harms, Brooke Sutton, Kimberly Harms; and a step son, Dustin Majtan; and also several grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date.

— submitted by the Harms family



Harold Harms

IN MEMORIAM

Clinton Koga

We regret to announce the passing of three-year IBEW 1245 member Clinton Koga of Brentwood, who lost his life following a tragic kayak accident. Brother Koga, who worked for PG&E GC Gas in Oakland, was just 39 years old.

He leaves behind two beautiful children Kailey and Nohea, and family who are devastated from the sudden loss. A memorial service was held Feb. 18.

The family could use our support during this difficult time and a GoFundMe has been set up to assist the Koga family.

Please donate what you can using <https://www.gofundme.com/f/Clinton-Koga>



Clinton Koga



IN MEMORIAM

James "Jimbo" D'Avanzo

James Nicholas D'Avanzo of Sun City, Arizona, passed away April 16, 2023. He was born in Riviera Beach, Florida on April 18, 1955. Jimmy graduated from Okeechobee High School in 1973. He was married to Sylvia R. D'Avanzo on September 14, 1974 in Okeechobee, Florida.

Jimbo worked as a Journeyman Lineman for 45 years and a member of the IBEW for 50 years. He had a passion for family, work life and his faith. Everyone knew Jimbo for being the first at show-up with his 18" line-boots with rolled up jeans, his Yankee hat and RayBan aviators. He loved every single one of his "brothers."

He was survived by his wife, Sylvia D'Avanzo; his children, James (Nicky) D'Avanzo & Jammie Shedden (Jesse); his grandchildren, Kennedy D'Avanzo, Jessica D'Avanzo & Jesse James Shedden; his siblings, Nicholas D'Avanzo (NY), Daniel D'Avanzo (MI) and Clorinda Buell (FL).

His death was a result of a very rare and fatal neurodegenerative disorder called Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD). There is no cure and is non-treatable with a life expectancy of only one year with the onset of symptoms. He was diagnosed by the Mayo Clinic who was unable to pinpoint the reason he contracted this rapid sporadic prion disease but was advised that only 400 people in the US get this disease. We are so thankful that he was able to talk to and visit some of his very dear friends and family in the prior weeks before his passing.

Memorial Service: Saturday, June 3rd, 2023 at 2pm. Sun City Christian Church, 9745 W Palmeras Drive, Sun City, Arizona 85373. — submitted by the D'Avanzo family



IN MEMORIAM

Jakob Stockton

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of IBEW 1245 member and PG&E Vegetation Management Inspector Jakob Stockton of Redding.

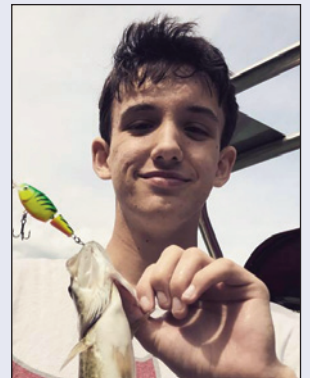
Stockton, 21-years old, was a two-year member of Local 1245, when he suffered a grave tragedy while changing a tire while at work.

"Jakob was an amazing son, brother and friend who left a positive impact on whoever crossed his path," according to his family. "His joyful personality, positive attitude and contagious smile were all things that cannot be replicated."

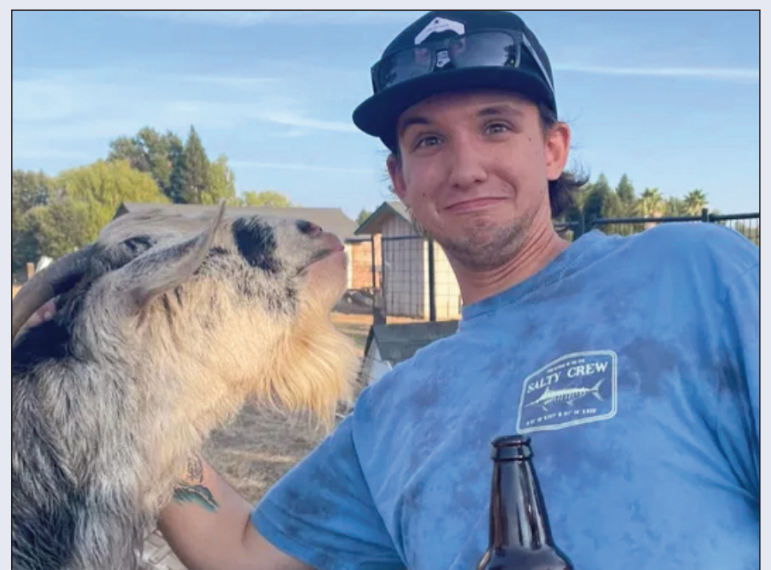
"Our brotherhood is shattered by Jakob's tragic death," said IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean. "These losses diminish us all. I cannot fully express my sadness at the loss of one so young."

The Stockton Family has established a GoFundMe and could use our support as they cope with this difficult loss. Please donate what you can using <https://www.gofundme.com/f/jakob-stockton>. Also, a Meal Train to support the family has begun and meals can be donated using <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/kwlo5z>.

A memorial service was held Feb 26 in Redding.



Jakob Stockton



Abel Sanchez Retires From IBEW 1245

After a lengthy and rewarding career, longtime IBEW 1245 Business Representative Abel Sanchez is retiring from the union this spring.

Brother Sanchez joined IBEW 1245 in the early 80s when he hired on as a line clearance tree trimmer (LCTT) for Davey Tree in the Fresno area.

Back then, the LCTTs in that area didn't have their own 1245 unit meeting, so Sanchez decided to take the initiative and organize one. His IBEW Business Rep at the time, Ron Van Dyke, proved to be an incredible resource and mentor to Sanchez as he learned the nuts and bolts of the union.

"Ron had asked me to become a shop steward," Sanchez recalled. "At the time, I never thought about the possibility of working with the union, and I wasn't really that interested in becoming a shop steward ... but later, I kind of kicked myself in the butt for not doing it."

Despite his hesitation, Sanchez ended up serving as the chairman of his

LCTT unit for many years, and eventually, former Business Manager Tom Dalzell invited him to join the IBEW 1245 staff as a Business Rep. He accepted the position, but felt nervous about coming into the new work environment.

"At first, I was intimidated by all the smart people that work for the union," Sanchez recalled. "I thought I was out of my league, but [longtime staffer] Hunter Stern told me, 'The reason you're here is

because you bring something to the table. Everybody here brings something to the table. We all have different qualities. Don't ever forget that.'"

One of Sanchez' unique qualities is his ability to retain information that he hears. An avid auditory learner, he believes that the reason what he passed his Certified Arborist exam on the first try (a crowning professional achievement for him) was because he listened to the information via audio CD.

"Becoming a certified arborist opened a lot of doors for me," he said,

noting that he subsequently became a foreman, then supervisor, and eventually came over to work for the union.

As he reflects back on his years with the union, he feels proud of the work he did, with support from his colleagues.

"The best part [of my time on the 1245 staff] has been the comradery of my brothers, my sisters, all the reps, all the people that have helped me, so that

I could help other people that are in need, our members," Sanchez added. "That's big for me, knowing that I helped people. I was put in this position because I genuinely care about people. I believe everybody's important."

In retirement, Sanchez is looking forward to travelling and spending time with his family, including his five grandchildren.



Abel Sanchez

Yerington Retirees Club Supports Programs for the Needy

The Yerington IBEW Local 1245 Retirees Club, former employees of NV Energy/SPPCO, presented a \$500 Community Fund donation to support two important programs — the Thanksgiving Holiday Community Dinner, which provides hundreds of free meals for seniors and those in need, and God's Pantry, which distributes household goods not provided by the food bank, such as paper goods, cleaning and hygiene supplies, and pet food (up to four items per car on a monthly basis).



Retirees Sue Bird, Jim Walker, TBird, Alyce Reese, Chris Beck, Gale Smith and Paris Shipley presented the donation to the Community United Methodist Church in Yerington on April 26. The donation was well received.

Photo by Karen Kostenbader



Reno-Sparks Retirees Rally at VA Hospital over Staffing Shortages

Members of the IBEW 1245 Reno/Sparks Retirees Club rallied in front of the Reno VA Medical Center to address severe staffing shortages within the VA system. Retirees and Organizing Stewards Rita Weisshaar and John Wilson, together with their spouses, demonstrated their solidarity with members of AFGE and other labor organizations to bring awareness to a nation-wide healthcare crisis.

With over sixty-four thousand vacancies, VA hospital staffing shortages are causing appointments to be cancelled and delays in much needed treatment

for those who have served our country. Staffing shortages are creating added pressure to employees who are experiencing burn out and are being denied time off.

Union members are calling on the VA to invest in its staff and infrastructure.

"Where we were (demonstrating) was the major drop off point of patients, we were helping people in and out of their cars," stated Weisshaar. "We talked to vets from Granada, the Vietnam War, and Afghanistan. They are so worthy of our help, and I feel we made a big impact on the community and the veterans that we were talking to."



IBEW 1245 Reno/Sparks Retiree Rita Weisshaar together with Pam Wilson and Ben Weisshaar supporting VA workers

Beware of Potential Scam Targeting Families of Deceased IBEW 1245 Members

IBEW 1245 has recently become aware of a sophisticated scam targeting the families of some of our deceased members. This mail scam includes a letter with the IBEW logo on it, deceiving recipients into thinking the message came from the union. The letter instructs recipients to provide personal information with the promise of receiving some sort of pension pay-

ment or death benefit from the union. We suspect that the scammer's true intent is identity theft.

IBEW 1245 takes this matter very seriously, and we are working to determine who is behind this scam so we can put an end to it.

In the meantime, we encourage all IBEW 1245 families to be extremely cautious in responding to any sort of

correspondence that asks for personal information. Please note that IBEW 1245 does not typically contact family members via mail to request private data.

If you or someone you know has received correspondence of this nature, or any other sort of suspicious solicitation that appears to be coming from the union, please let us know

ASAP by emailing info@ibew1245.com or calling the union hall.



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!

Abarca, Olga 39 years Oakley, CA	Brown, Jim 43 years Modesto, CA	De Graef, Timothy 39 years Suisun City, CA	Grilli, Dave 50 years Oakley, CA	Jones, Emma 43 years Oakland, CA	Negranza, Donny 39 years San Jose, CA	Rigmaiden, Kenny 44 years Sonora, CA	Sweeney, David 37 years Oakley, CA
Alcorn, David 41 years Ben Lomond, CA	Burlison, Harvey Jr. 43 years Woodland, CA	Dillon, David 44 years Concord, CA	Hamilton, Michael 40 years Flournoy, CA	Lanuza, Edwin Jr. 42 years Napa, CA	Neuburger, Joseph Jr. 39 years Elk Grove, CA	Roderick, Douglas 40 years Shingletown, CA	Taha, Lee 52 years Santa Rosa, CA
Allen, Gerald 42 years Martinez, CA	Burnham, Michael 21 years Red Bluff, CA	Dorais, Michael 21 years West Sacramento, CA	Hamilton, Raymond 45 years Pittsburg, CA	Licea, Javier 39 years Windsor, CA	Neufeld, Dan 36 years Bakersfield, CA	Ross, William 37 years Red Bluff, CA	Tate, William 46 years Fresno, CA
Andrews, David 40 years Martinez, CA	Burns, James 27 years Boerne, TX	Douglass, David 27 years Clarksville, TN	Hang, Stanley 30 years Stockton, CA	Lisa, Richard 37 years Brentwood, CA	Newman, Susan 10 years Berkeley, CA	Ryan, Linda 51 years Santa Clara, CA	Thompson, Glenn 32 years Grass Valley, CA
Avila, Steven 18 years Fresno, CA	Burton, Paul 25 years Oroville, CA	Duarte, John 40 years Vallejo, CA	Harris, Dale 39 years Bakersfield, CA	Long, Stewart 12 years Conway, SC	Noce, Paul 19 years San Bruno, CA	Sanchez, Luisa 31 years Dinuba, CA	Turano, Salvatore III 32 years San Jose, CA
Bacon, Jonathan 27 years Grass Valley, CA	Bussey, Rickey 32 years San Lorenzo, CA	Elliott, Gary 42 years Oroville, CA	Harvey, Steven Sr. 13 years Modesto, CA	Longo, John 39 years Danville, CA	O'Loughlin, Michael 20 years Rancho Cordova, CA	Schubert, Robert 20 years San Jose, CA	Turnipseed, Paul 38 years Aptos, CA
Becerra, John 41 years San Jose, CA	Casagrande, Vincent 31 years Las Vegas, NV	Elliott-Sterling, Trudy 21 years San Jose, CA	Hatfield, Brian 37 years Westley, CA	Maiocco, Marty 39 years Chico, CA	Pagan, William 39 years Hercules, CA	Scott, Pamela 29 years Santa Rosa, CA	Vernon, Wayne 35 years Folsom, CA
Berguia, Paul 31 years Stockton, CA	Cederlof, Brian 43 years Oakhurst, CA	Engbretson, Bridget 38 years Auburn, CA	Henderson, Willie 26 years Stockton, CA	Marez-Samaniego, Esther 12 years Stockton, CA	Pena, Steven 39 years San Rafael, CA	Simkins, Steven 39 years Salinas, CA	Vetter, Donald 39 years Oakhurst, CA
Blackburn, Julia 35 years El Dorado, CA	Chelini, Frank 39 years Santa Rosa, CA	England, Kevin 38 years Vallejo, CA	Hensley, Carmon 43 years Woodland, CA	Martin, Guy 16 years Marysville, CA	Philips, David 42 years Union City, CA	Simon, Ronald 40 years Healdsburg, CA	Wait, Charles 32 years Scottsdale, AZ
Bonilla, Frank 48 years Clovis, CA	Chico, Gloria 22 years Fresno, CA	Evans, Richard 27 years Madera, CA	Hernandez, Fernando 33 years Vallejo, CA	Mayo, Randy 39 years Brentwood, CA	Pitts, Stephen 39 years Penn Valley, CA	Smith, Joseph 21 years Redding, CA	Winterhalter, Patricia 26 years Santa Cruz, CA
Borrero, Perry 28 years Chico, CA	Cisneros, James 39 years San Jose, CA	French, John 43 years Redding, CA	Higuera, Fernando 45 years Monterey, CA	Mayo, Daniel 48 years Atwater, CA	Preciado, Jose 22 years San Bruno, CA	Stevens, Timothy 45 years Bakersfield, CA	Yee, John 39 years San Francisco, CA
Brewster, Richard 32 years Ridgecrest, CA	Comstock, Karen 18 years Fresno, CA	Galam, Rosie 43 years Sacramento, CA	Hogan, James II 44 years Antioch, CA	McCloskey, Glennda 52 years Stockton, CA	Ramirez, Rico 35 years Concord, CA	Stewart, William 33 years French Camp, CA	Youmans, Michael 39 years San Jose, CA
	Condit, Adrianne 29 years Madera, CA	Gallagher, David 20 years Vallejo, CA	Holtzen, Thomas 27 years Geyserville, CA	McGinley, William 42 years Bakersfield, CA	Ramos, Robert 44 years Modesto, CA	Stromberg, Ty 11 years Mt Shasta City, CA	Zuniga, Gary 43 years San Jose, CA
	Cox, Donald 37 years Conway, SC	Garcia, Gary 27 years Penn Valley, CA	Inman-Lauff, Janet 40 years Yuba City, CA	Meitzenheimer, Cheryl 46 years Fairfield, CA	Ramsey, Ron 41 years Coarsegold, CA		
	Creer, Kyle 31 years Brentwood, CA	Gazarian, Judy 22 years Daly City, CA	Isherwood, James 27 years Alta, CA	Meyn, Dan 45 years Arnold, CA	Renfro, Robert 7 years Santa Maria, CA		
	Damele, Aileen 30 years Placerville, CA	Grahman, Stephen 36 years Antioch, CA	Jackson, Eric 33 years Sacramento, CA	Morales, Clara 41 years So San Francisco, CA	Rhodes, Karen 41 years Redding, CA		
	Danielson, Brett 39 years Woodland, CA	Griffiths, Morgan 12 years Fairfield, CA	Jaques (Whitting), Gillian 38 years San Jose, CA	Munoz, Jacquelyn 26 years Vacaville, CA	Richardson, Victor 17 years Richmond, CA		

Congratulations Retirees!
We want you to STAY CONNECTED



to IBEW 1245.

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Sister Spotlight IBEW 1245 Member Brianna Harrison Becomes First Woman to Complete Sac RT Mechanic Apprenticeship



Brianna Harrison is the first woman to journey out of Sac RT's new mechanic apprenticeship program.

Ten-year IBEW 1245 member Brianna Harrison recently became the first woman to complete Sacramento Regional Transit's new state- and federally-recognized apprenticeship for journey-level mechanics. The 36-month apprenticeship program,

Utility Reporter

which launched in October of 2016, consists of both classroom and on-the-job training, and requires hard work, dedication, attention to detail and exceptional commitment.

Achieving journey status is an enormous accomplishment for Harrison, and she's incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity.

"It's definitely a privilege. I am a person that always needs a challenge, and this program presented that," she told the *Utility Reporter* at Sac RT's journeyman mechanic graduation ceremony. "It feels good to achieve a goal that I had."

Harrison started her career at RT as a service worker over a decade ago, with the aspiration of someday becoming a journeyman.

"When the opportunity afforded itself, I did all the work it took to get into it, and I entered the program," she said. "I always set out to excel in whatever I do. I'm proud of myself!"

Harrison appreciates having IBEW

1245 union representation as an RT employee.

"The union's always had my back. It seems like they're proactive when issues arise, and also they're just here to check in," said Harrison. "I see [my IBEW 1245

Business Rep, Sheila Lawton] even when there's not anything going on, so I appreciate the support."

"We are excited by Brianna's accomplishment, and hope that other women will follow in her footsteps," said Lawton.



Brianna Harrison and fellow Journeyman Mechanic Anthony Bertuccelli (who graduated from the apprenticeship at the same time as Harrison), flanked by IBEW 1245 Business Rep Sheila Lawton and Senior Assistant Business Manager Al Fortier, show off their new IBEW 1245 Journeyman backpacks.
Photos by John Storey



SERVICE AWARDS

Merced
February 3, 2023



30 Years

From left:
Trelawny Gause
with (Fortier)



25 Years

From left: Mike
Shepherd with
(Fortier)

Photos by
John Storey

Congratulations on your service!



40 Years From left: William Martin with Senior Assistant
Business Manager Al Fortier



20 Years Front row, from left: Juan Garcia and Jason
King. Back row, from left: Antonio Vega and Dustin Krieger



35 Years From left: Randy May with (Fortier)



15 Years Front row, from left: Jose Morales and Henry
Tharp. Back row, from left: Dan Brown and Greg Brown



15 Years Front row, from left: Chris Reding, Bryan Brock and Leonard Redwine. Back
row, from left: Anthony Ormonde and Jeffrey Shannon



10 Years Front row, from left: William McMurry, John Carter, Thomas Heddings. Back
row, from left: Lannie Ashley, Mark Urbani and David Gwar



5 Years From left: Juan Viayra, Francisco Mercado Munoz and
Ethan Henke

HONOREES					
5 years			10 years		
Arrasmith- Thomason, Orning	Jacobson, Bryce	Vogel, Richard	Alvarez, Ryan	Medina, Sandra	Ormonde, Anthony
Barbour, Bryce	Kolk, Jesse Lee	Wahlborg, Cory	Ashley, Lannie	Mullins, Karen	Osborn, Zoe
Bernardo Mendez, Elias	Lorenzo, Anthony		Bautista, Manuel Jr.	Nascimento, Matthew	Reding, Christopher
Calderon, Mario	Mello, Darrell		Carey, Christopher	Pedreiro, Matthew	Redwine, Leonard
Campos, Jorge	Mercado Munoz, Francisco		Carter, John	Redfern, Michael	Sandlin, Steven
Carlyle, Ryan	Munoz Ramirez, Aram		Diaz, Douglas	Ronveaux, Samuel	Shannon, Jeffrey
Cerra, Donald	Obrien, Lance		Dicochea, Kathleen	Saechao, Lo	Tharp, Henry
Clemons, Tiffany	Orozco, Jaime		Ebert, Jason	Urbani, Mark	Thiessen, Gerald
Cole, Craig	Ponce, Jesus		Fierro, Robert		Torres, Bulmaro
Creekmur, May	Reyes-Small, Kaleb		Gallagher, Chad		Webster, Garrett
Damas, John	Sanudo Torres, Jose Alonso		Gifford, David		Wootten, Kenneth
De Groot, Andy	Souza, Timothy		Gwara, David		
Ellis, Daniel	Suafoa, Elizabeth		Headings, Thomas		
Gudino, Anthony	Vara, Robert		Holtz, David		
Henke, Ethan	Ventura, Jose Jr.		Marks, Brian		
Hernandez, Carlos	Viayra, Juan		McMurry, William		
	Villegas, Ismael Jr.				

“The Most Qualified”

IBEW 1245 Crews Replace Transmission Towers in Vallejo Marshland



While winter storm after winter storm walloped nearly every corner of PG&E’s service area, power restoration was forefront on everyone’s mind — but it wasn’t the only kind of work being performed by IBEW 1245 members. Some crews were also responsible for completing other time-sensitive projects that are critical to public safety and continuity of service.

Among those projects were a pair of transmission towers located west of Vallejo along Highway 37, carrying dual 115KV circuits and situated over a slough that has occasional passport of water vessels. The two enormous 245ft towers were overdue for replacement, and despite the ongoing storms, the

work had to get done. (One of these towers is somewhat infamous for longtime Bay Area residents. On October 25, 1991, a helicopter carrying Bill Graham and his girlfriend impaled itself on the structure, resulting in three tragic deaths.)

Given the size and scope of the job, the PG&E GC Lakeville tower crew, led by IBEW 1245 member and Subforeman B Tyler Howard, enlisted help from other Tower Department crews from the Olivehurst and Victor yards. A transmission line crew from Lakeville also played a key role in the completion of the job; those journeymen linemen were responsible for any work associated with the conductor that is attached to both towers.

Environmental, corrosion, and endangered species habitat factors, as well as material issues, all contributed to the job delays, resulting in a narrow and finite window of time for the tower replacements. Loading restrictions (to keep customers’ power on by other feeds) also factored into the tight timelines to complete the work.

Given the location of the tower sites, multiple environmental studies had to be completed before the work could begin. Habitat protection of the salt water harvest mouse and the clapper rail bird needed to be addressed. The tide tables were another issue that required planning.

To add even more com-

plexity, the towers are situated in a marshland, and before the tower crews could come in, 200 truckloads of heavy-duty matting needed to be installed just to support their heavy trucks and cranes. Each mat weighed 4,000 pounds, and they were installed and removed by IBEW members working for 1245 signatory contractor Wilson Construction.

■ ■ ■

We sat down with the Subforeman B, Tyler Howard, as well as his crewmates, Subforeman C Anthony Castaldo, and Towerman Quinn Weil-Dye, to learn about all the challenges the crews faced to get this work done. They showed us the tower prints from 1912 (this type of tower had not been constructed for over 100 years), and explained that the small footprint and the height of the towers meant that all work had to be ‘like for like.’

Safe completion of this job was heavily dependent on the extensive training and skills of both the tower and transmission line crews. Rigging, safety at heights, grounding and working around helicopters flying external cargo are just some of the skills that IBEW members are trained in to keep both themselves and the public safe while performing this type of work.

Despite working in relentless rain, they completed the job ahead of sched-

ule and under budget. The tremendous sense of pride from the Lakeville tower crew was obvious in our discussion.

Brother Howard said it best, “We put our abilities and knowledge up against anyone performing this type of work... [anyone else] assuming they can do what we do is insulting. The importance of safety cannot be overstated, and the training we receive makes us the most qualified workforce to complete this work without incident.”

And after spending a couple hours with this crew, we have to agree.

— Bob Gerstle and Garrett Markwood,
IBEW 1245 staffers
Photos by Quinn Weil-Dye





IBEW Clay Shoot Returns

Photos by John Storey

IBEW Local 1245 was proud to host the 8th (almost) Annual IBEW Clay Shoot, with support from the IBEW Local 340 Sportsman's Club. This highly anticipated event returned this spring after a two-year COVID-induced hiatus — and tickets sold out in just a day and a half.

Approximately 135 eager shooters of all ages showed up at Raahauge's Hunting and Sporting Clays in Dunnigan on a perfectly mild spring day in early April. The teams wasted no time hitting the course, and the distinctive sound of shotguns echoed through the rolling green hillsides as experts, novices, and rookies alike took aim at the orange target discs whizzing through the air. Families, friends and co-workers moved through the challenging 17-station course in the hopes of posting their best individual scores. On this particular day, a shooter's accuracy could be tested not only by the variety of shooting clays thrown from all angles, but also by the laughter and jokes at their expense. For many of the groups, laughter and camaraderie were more abundant than busted clays.

By the time the sun reached its noontime peak, most of the participants were ready for a tasty BBQ lunch, featuring a delicious pulled pork main

course. Our great hosts at the facility kept the hungry line moving as the shooters chowed down, laughed, and compared scores.

In keeping with the annual tradition, the festivities concluded with an exciting raffle. All youth participants under 16 years old walk away with special prizes, and the adult raffle featured some incredible giveaways, including Weatherby Orion 12 Gauge over/under shotgun, and a Frachi Affinity 3.5 Elite model 12 gauge shotgun in camo wrap.

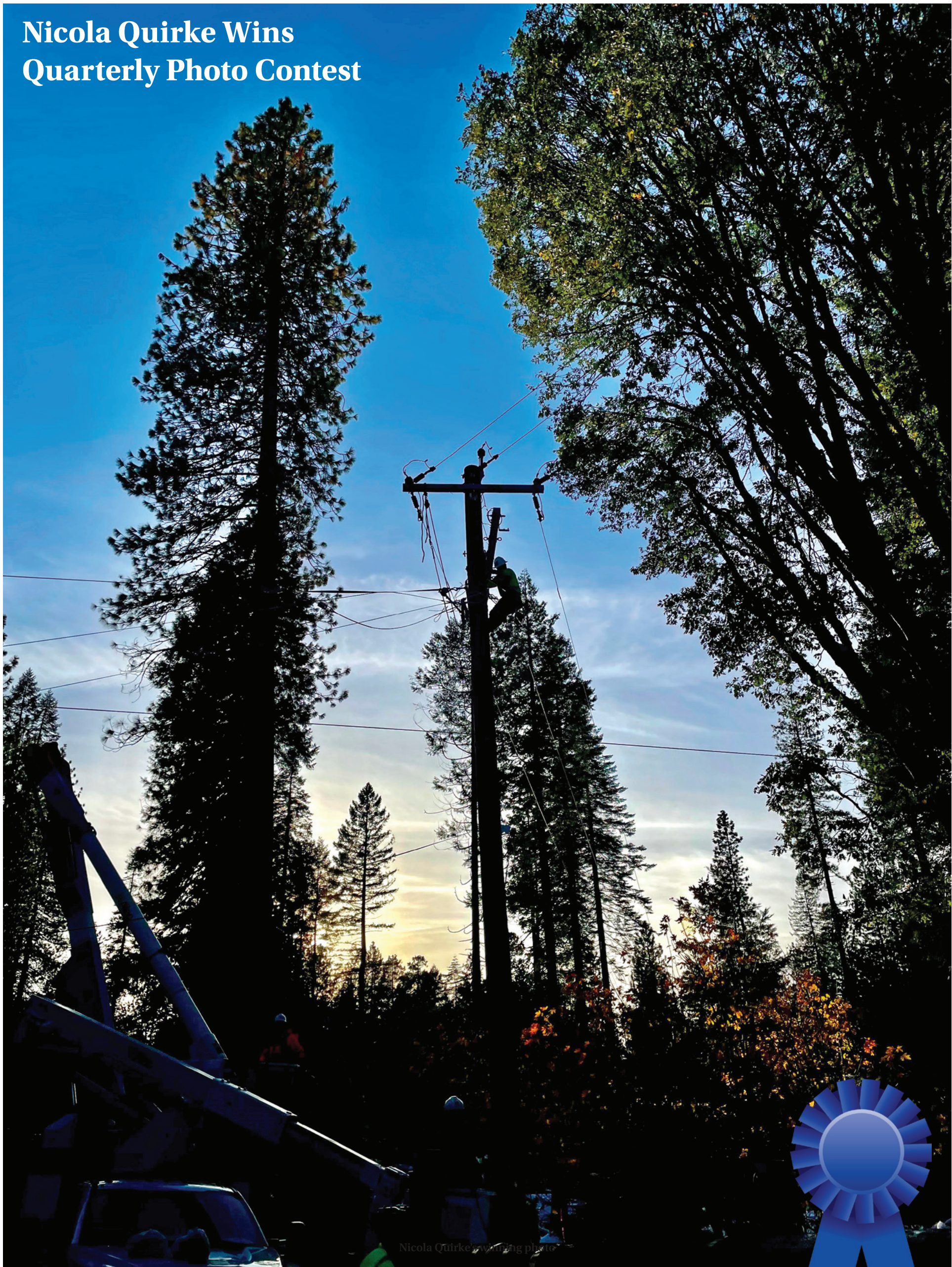
We would like to thank our sponsors who helped to make the 2023 Clay Shoot a success, including the Executive Boards of Locals 1245 and 340, without whom this event would not be possible. Kittles Outdoor of Colusa, Teichert Line Services, Rosendin Electric, Schetter Electric, SPSI, and 1884 Line Co. also contributed to help fund this great event.

We look forward to partnering with these wonderful organizations again for next year's clay shoot. See you in 2024!

— Anthony Brown, IBEW 1245
Senior Assistant Business Manager



Nicola Quirke Wins Quarterly Photo Contest



Nicola Quirke's winning photo

Two-year IBEW 1245 member Nicola Quirke is the winner of IBEW 1245's first-quarter 2023 photo contest! Sister Quirke, who works as a traffic control utility

worker for PG&E, was unable to attend the 1245 Advisory Council meeting in January, so her \$500 prize check was issued to her by mail.

Elyon Motu Wins IBEW 1245 Quarterly Photo Contest



Eight-year IBEW 1245 member Elyon Motu is the winner of the second quarter 2023 photo contest. Brother Motu, who works for PG&E as a GC Gas Construction Operator, was unable to accept his

\$500 award in person, so his prize check was issued to him by mail. All IBEW 1245 members in good standing are eligible to enter up to five original, high-resolution safety compliant photos into the

contest each quarter. Submissions should be sent to 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.

