

Inside:



# Utility Reporter



Volume 73 No.2 • Apr – June 2024

UNITY IS STRENGTH

For up-to-the-minute news, see our website: [www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com)

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IBEW 1245 spear-headed the first-of-its-kind Utility Workers Day of Action at the State Capitol in Sacramento on March 13, 2024 . Story on page 20.  
Photo by John Storey





**Bob Dean**  
Business Manager

## The Backbone of Our Union

Springtime is upon us — and while this time of year means different things for different people, it's always my favorite time of year, because I get the opportunity to travel around the system for IBEW 1245's annual series of shop steward conferences.

Each and every one of our members plays a role in our Local 1245's strength and success, but it's the shop stewards who are truly the backbone of our union. The passion, the drive, and the perseverance they exude — especially in situations where there's a fellow union

member in a sticky situation at work — is nothing short of awe-inspiring. I see it in their eyes, I hear it in their voices, and I feel it in their handshakes; that unshakable understanding that we all share a common goal to improve the lives and livelihoods of our members any way that we can.

Our stewards do more than just protect and defend contractual rights. They also have the power and ability to set the standard for safe work on the job. It starts with the example that they set by showing their co-workers what it means to put safety first, every single time — even if that means stopping a job until you feel confident that it can be completed safely. **Every steward at 1245 is a safety steward.**

Our stewards know how to show up and show off, a point I was recently reminded of at the IBEW Utility Workers Day of Action (see story on page 20). We called on our shop stewards, as well as organizing stewards and safety stewards, to represent 1245 at the Capitol, and they truly went above and beyond to showcase both our value as utility workers,

and also our values as a brotherhood.

That's far from the only example. When I look over our list of recent political and legislative victories, our wins at the bargaining table, and our growth in membership, I know that none of that would have been possible without our stewards.

While the staff of 1245 is incredibly hard-working and unquestionably the best there is in the IBEW, they cannot be everywhere at once. That's why our network of stewards is so incredibly invaluable. Stewards serve as the union's eyes and ears in nearly every HQ, yard and facility in our jurisdiction. And this, brothers and sisters, is why we have the best contracts in the nation, and why we will keep on winning on behalf of our members.

Being a steward isn't easy, but it is incredibly rewarding. And as I always say, in order to have a deep bench, we need every player in the game — which means we're always looking for new stewards to increase our power and elevate our voice. If you're interested in learning more about becoming a steward, please reach

out to your Business Rep. <https://ibew1245.com/#find-your-rep>

### CALENDAR

#### Upcoming Events

- May 11:** IBEW 1245 Soccer Tournament, Ripon
- May 18:** IBEW/PG&E West Coast Lineman's Rodeo, Livermore
- July 20:** Advisory Council Meeting, Reno
- Sept. 21:** IBEW 1245 Golf Tournament, Location TBD
- Oct. 5:** IBEW 1245 Car Show, Winters

#### IBEW 1245

#### Service Awards/Pin Dinners

- May 17:** San Jose
- May 31:** San Francisco
- June 14:** Redding
- June 15:** Chico
- July 19:** Reno

View IBEW 1245's Calendar of Events at [www.ibew1245.com/calendar](http://www.ibew1245.com/calendar)

### Find Your Unit Meeting

Visit [ibew1245.com/unit-meetings/](http://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.

### Bakersfield Unit Meeting Time Change

**Unit #1112**, Bakersfield, has changed its meeting start time to 5pm. The dates and location remain the same.

— Mark Rolow, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

### Oakhurst Unit Meeting Change

**Unit #1125**, Oakhurst, has moved its unit meeting from the second Thursday of the month to the third Thursday at 4pm.

— Rey Mendoza, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

### Stockton Clerical Unit Meeting Moved to Second Tuesday of the Month

**Unit #2509**, Stockton Clerical, has voted to change its meeting dates. Meetings will now be the second Tuesday of every month.

— Graciela Nunez, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

## WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY APRIL 28, 2024

*Honoring IBEW 1245 members who died on the job over the last 20 years*

- RANDY IMAI 1/5/2004
- KEVIN KNUTSON 1/13/2004
- ROBERT "BOB" SLUGA 11/8/2005
- ARTHUR "EARL" VERBECK 1/23/2006
- JOHN GOERINGER 11/28/2006
- FELIPE CHAVEZ 1/4/2008
- PHILLIP BAKER 7/16/2008
- TROY SCHAFFER 7/24/2008
- PETER TOLOLI 3/24/2009
- AARON THOMAS DINEEN 9/22/2009
- LYNN LOWERY 10/7/2009
- MAXIMILIANO MARTINEZ 3/17/2010
- GERALD BIEDINGER 8/20/2010
- JON CHRISTENSEN 6/21/2011
- CARLOS AMEZCUA 9/28/2011
- RYAN MILES 10/13/2011
- AARON WEISS 10/13/2011
- CURTIS ZAHOUREK 7/27/2012
- RENE CUIEL 9/27/2012
- TOM FLIPPO 11/30/2012
- CHANTHAVY CHANTHAPASEUTH 10/19/2014
- CLIFF BENGIS 9/30/2015
- KENNETH WILLIAMS 12/30/2015
- DAVID SPURGEON 7/21/2016
- NASH MAYER 12/1/2016
- JOSEPH COOPER 8/22/2017
- JAIRUS AYETA 8/4/2018
- LOGAN RUHNKE 7/22/2019
- COLBY KYLE 10/25/2019



- RAMON TINAJERO 11/25/2019
- DAVID ROMERO-MENDOZA 3/16/2020
- JIMMY WASDIN 6/2/2020
- TRAVIS SHULL 6/2/2020
- STEVE WINK 8/19/2020
- SCOTT RAMSEY 11/7/2020
- JONATHAN CABRERA 5/28/2021
- JOHN OSTROSKI 6/15/2021
- MIGUEL FLORES 12/30/2021
- ROBERT ANDERSON 2/22/2022
- JAMES CORY DUNNE 5/6/2022
- JORGE SORIA 8/4/2022
- EDGAR CASTILLO 1/7/2023
- JAKOB STOCKTON 1/31/2023

**honor the dead  
fight for the living**

### Utility Reporter

April – June 2024 • Volume 73 No. 2 • Circulation: 28,000

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Published quarterly at  
30 Orange Tree Circle, Vacaville, CA 95687.

Official publication of Local Union 1245,  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,  
AFL-CIO, P.O. Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696.

Our phone number is (707) 452-2700.

Periodical postage paid at Vacaville and at additional mailing offices. USPS No. 654640, ISSN No. 0190-4965.

**POSTMASTER:** Please send Form 3579, Change of Address, and all correspondence to *Utility Reporter*, P.O. Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696.

Single copies \$1.

Subscription by arrangement.  
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# Peer-To-Peer Safety Committee Updates

**I**BEW 1245's Peer-to-Peer safety programs are created and run by members themselves. The goal is to increase the safety of our members at the workplace, to address safety problems on a member-to-member basis, and to achieve greater safety awareness through information and education rather than the disciplinary process.

Each program has an Advisory Committee and a pool of Safety Stewards who understand safe work practices, follow them and encourage others to do the same through large-scale presentations and one-to-one conversations on the job. These committees and stewards are supported by 1245 Business Rep Fred Aboud.

The Peer-to-Peer initiative exists outside of company safety programs and is dedicated to creating a safety culture that motivates union members to find other means to promote their own personal safety through mutual support and protection on the job.

To become a safety steward, email

MFA1@ibew1245.com.



## Spring 2024 Peer-to-Peer Program Updates

The "Hold the Pull" electric/line peer safety committee continues to grow the peer program and continues to make a difference. Local 1245 has HTP safety stewards at 16 properties in our jurisdiction. These safety stewards are often present at PG&E's Livermore Training facility; every month, they are giving presentations to apprentice classes or new troubleman classes. They have also presented at PG&E's Hayward division yard, and will be in Fremont division in May, and Livermore division in June. HTP will be presenting at Silicon Valley Power in May as well. This group did a pitch at City of Lodi for the first time, and the response was extremely good; three new safety stewards joined the program following that visit.

The "Control the Pressure" gas peer safety group has safety stewards that represent seven different properties, and they have been extremely busy as well. The stewards at PG&E are involved with all safety summits for different work groups all over the system. They presented at eight different damage prevention rodeos, three different corrosion and leak survey safety summits, eight different locations for GC gas safety summits, and six different GPOM safety summits, along with numerous pitches at the Winters training facility for new utility workers and Mod 0 employees. Throughout all of these safety summits, CTP has shared its safety message with roughly 1,000 members, and as a result, we've seen a 20% increase in safety stewards with the CTP group. They also attended the 2024 PG&E/IBEW Gas Rodeo.

The newly established "Regulate the Voltage" generation peer safety committee continues to thrive and move for-



ward with building their program. They currently have seven properties represented with safety stewards. RTV has delivered safety pitches at five safety summits on PG&E property, reaching approximately 550 members jurisdiction-wide. They are actively recruiting to get new members involved, and are continuing to grow.

The "Keep the Clearance" line clearance tree trimmer peer safety committee has been dormant since the most recent round of layoffs, but we are working to get this group back on its feet soon.

— Fred Aboud, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

# Health & Safety Committee Report

**T**he IBEW Local 1245 Health and Safety committee is comprised of a cross-section of trades, representing the rank-and-file membership in matters related to safety. Supported by 1245 Safety Director Jody Castro, the committee gathers safety-related materials, respond to safety research requests and report safety issues to the local union. The members meet on a monthly basis at Local 1245 to review safety matters and are responsible to report accidents and injuries to the IBEW International Organization as mandated by IBEW International Bylaws. Members are welcome to contact them to discuss issues or report accidents and injuries. They are available to help. Email [j4ci@ibew1245.com](mailto:j4ci@ibew1245.com).



The IBEW 1245 Health and Safety Committee met on Jan. 9 and reviewed reports of the following incidents and news:

- On Dec. 5, the Oakland City Council unanimously passed the "Safe Work Zone" ordinance. This first-of-its-kind rule is expected to help workers in Oakland ensure their personal safety while working in public spaces. This win could not have happened without the dedication of Local 1245 members, organizing stewards and staff.
- A line worker was working at about 30 feet up on an unsupported pole when the pole broke at its base, causing the pole and line worker to fall across a backyard fence and pool equipment. No injuries.
- A crew experienced an electric event when the knuckle of their 95' bucket made contact with two phases of 17kv line. At the time, the crew had

intended to use the insulated portion of the boom as a guard between different circuits. There was discussion of the need to maintain a spotter during critical operations. No injuries.

- A Committee member reported that PG&E has begun the process of implementing a Line Clearance Tree Trimmer evaluation program. These assessments are reported to be required by 2025. The same committee member reported an incident that occurred when a cut section of tree made contact with another tree and was deflected into live power lines, causing an outage.
- A Committee member reported issues where newly installed 25kv elbows are found to have been installed with 12kv pins. This causes a situation where the elbows appear to be correct but cannot be energized.

The Committee met on Feb. 13 and reviewed reports of the following incidents:

- A line crew was working to clear and ground underground cables located at an unmarked junction box when they were exposed to a flash while applying grounds. The crew had followed test procedures and observed a (false) negative, however when looking closer at the maps application it was discovered that there was additional information that could have helped them identify the correct work location. No injuries.
- A crew was utilizing a boom truck to lift a 45' steel column while stabilizing the base with a Telehandler when the load shifted, causing the Telehandler to become sideloaded and fall into the boom truck. While there were no injuries, the Telehandler falling into



From left: 1245 Safety Committee member Steve Speak, Safety Director Jody Castro, IBEW Safety Department Director Mark MacNichol, 1245 Safety Committee member Ernie Pena and 1245 Safety Committee member Gerald Stinson at the IBEW Safety Conference

the boom truck came within three feet of the boom operator.

- A crew was working to pour a tower footing utilizing a concrete mixing attachment on a skid steer when one of the workers called for a stop before reaching into the chute to clear material. The worker suffered the partial amputation of one finger when the hydraulic door closed. The company has designed a guard for the equipment going forward.
- February was the last Health and Safety meeting for brother Dan Boschee, who has retired from Frontier Communications and looks forward to enjoying time traveling. We wish brother Boschee a long and happy retirement!
- The Health and Safety Committee welcomed brother Ernie Pena as its newest member. Brother Pena serves on Control the Pressure and is a Gas Service Representative at PG&E.

The Committee did not meet in March due to the IBEW International Safety Conference and National Safety Council. Committee members Gerald Stinson, Ernie Pena and Steve Speak

joined me in attending the conference.

Some of the important topics presented:

- Milwaukee Tool presented research on the effects that weight and design had on ergonomic injuries. They had some very compelling data backing up their claims to have developed tools that are less likely to cause injuries. They also compared the safety benefits of helmets over hard hats and described their in-house testing procedures. Finally, they discussed advances that had been made in suspension and padding to allow for a better fit that is both more comfortable and safer overall. They also had samples of new cut-resistant gloves that at least one member of the committee found interesting.

- Tyndale USA presented their new lighter and more comfortable Fire Resistant (FR) apparel products. They also shared a series of videos that demonstrated how an Arc Flash SIF would occur in different situations, including where the PPE is partially unbuttoned (fire from the Arc Flash moves under clothing either

continued on page 8



# A Hole In One at IBEW 1245's First South Valley Open Golf Tournament



The IBEW 1245's first annual South Valley Open "SVO" Golf Tournament took place at the Dragonfly Golf Course in Madera on April 13, 2024. The day began with beautiful weather, setting the stage for an enjoyable day of golf. Golfers teed off promptly at 8am, taking to the course with enthusiasm. While on the course, golfers were treated to complimentary beer at two designated beer gardens, generously sponsored by Tiago Sequoia Brewery of Fresno. Additionally, golfers indulged in free hotdogs, adding to the enjoyment of the day.

The course featured four Par Three holes, each offering enticing hole-in-one prizes. We are thrilled to announce 1245 member and PG&E Distribution Operator Cody Baldus as the winner of the hole-in-one prize on hole #3, with a remarkable 155-yard uphill shot.

"One of my teammates thought I hit a really good shot. We were looking for it, and he decided to look in the hole," Baldus recounted. "It happened to be in the hole. So it was a hole in one — first one I've ever had!"

Baldus' epic shot earned him a year's supply of Omaha steaks. Thanks to Lampe Dodge, Jeep & Chrysler for providing the exciting hole-in-one prizes, including the chance to win a 2024 Ram 1500 on hole #12. Though the truck prize remained unclaimed this year, Lampe has committed to sponsoring future upcoming SVO

events.

The day concluded with an exciting raffle, and some lucky members walked away with incredible prizes, including new golf club bags, a big-screen TV, and a portable grill.

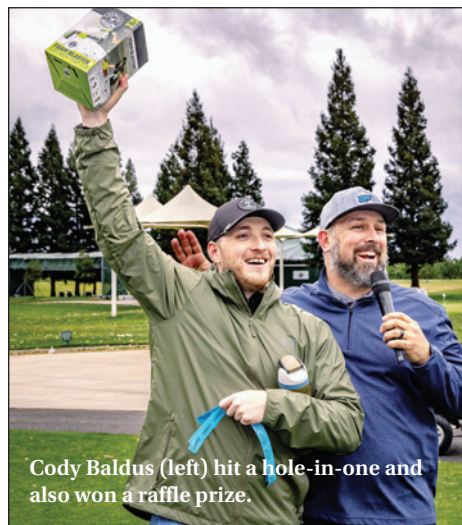
"We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the sponsors, staff, and volunteers whose dedication made this year's tournament possible. We are grateful for your support and contribution to the success of the event," said IBEW 1245 Business Rep Gerald Williams, who co-chaired the SVO tournament with fellow Business Rep Ryan Skelton. "We also want to express our sincere appreciation to all the members and golfers who persevered through inclement weather during the final holes of the tournament. Your dedication and participation are integral to the success of the event, and we are grateful



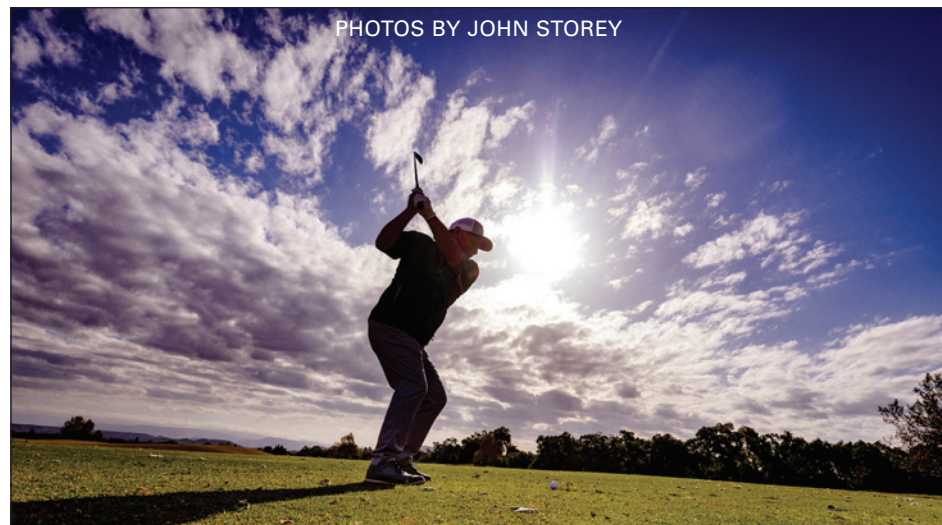
1245 member Cody Baldus hit a hole in one.

for your support. It is thanks to you that the tournament was a resounding success, selling out in less than three weeks after opening registration."

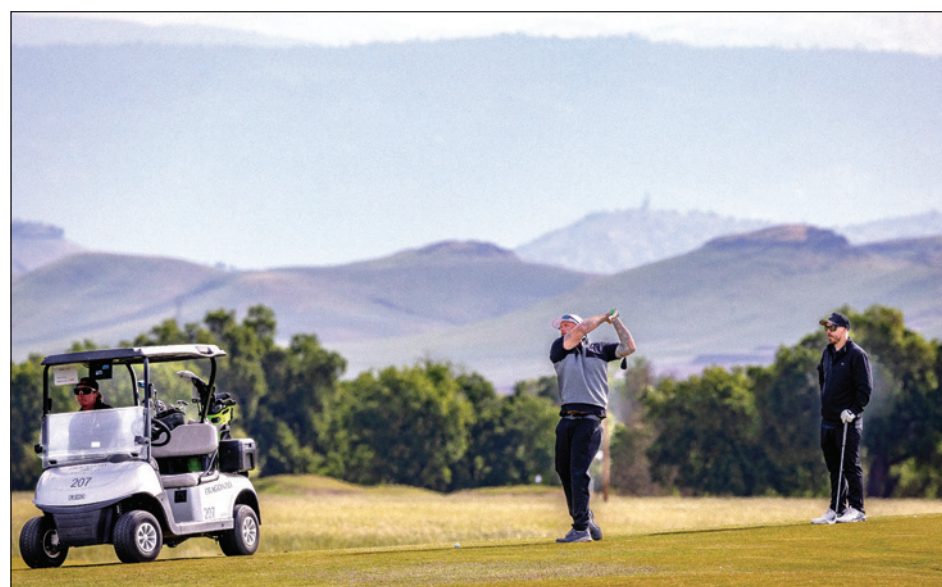
IBEW 1245 will be hosting another golf tournament in the Vacaville area in September 2024. Details will be announced over the summer. This promises to be another fantastic opportunity for members to come together and enjoy a day of camaraderie on the golf course.



Cody Baldus (left) hit a hole-in-one and also won a raffle prize.



A local car dealership sponsored this hole-in-one prize — a 2024 Dodge Ram. Unfortunately, it had to be hole #12, so no one won it this year.









# “Fire in my Belly”

## IBEW 1245 Organizing Stewards Get Out the Vote in California’s Primary Election



Local 1245 organizing stewards, leaders and staff with candidates Kathryn Lybarger and Nikki Fortunato Bas

**“If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu.”**

In union circles, this adage often refers to the importance of collective bargaining, which gives workers a seat at the table where decisions are made that affect their livelihood.

But those same types of decisions — the kind that could make our break our union and our industry — are increasingly in the hands of elected officials at the local, state and federal levels. And the only way we can keep ourselves at the table and off the menu is through political action. We must work to elect politicians who have our best interest at heart; otherwise, we could lose everything we’ve fought for over generations.

This is why IBEW 1245 and its organizing stewards play an active role in each and every primary and general election. In the month leading up to the March 4th primary election in California, IBEW 1245 released a total of 20 organizing stewards on union time off to assist the Alameda Labor Council, South Bay Labor Council, Contra Costa Labor Council, Napa/Solano Labor Council, and North Valley Labor Federation with their member-to-member “Get Out the Vote” (GOTV) outreach programs. Additionally, 19 staffers and 20 organizing stewards volunteered on their own time to support the 1245-endorsed candidates in Sacramento, including SMUD Board member Rosanna Herber’s bid for Assembly District 6.

The 2024 California primary election was characterized by two main factors — widespread low turnout, and several incredibly close races. The overall turnout in the California primary was just 36%, while turnout in the counties within 1245’s jurisdiction was slightly higher, about 40%.

Historically, low voter turnout has typically translated to a more anti-worker electorate and broader losses for pro-union candidates. But despite this trend, IBEW 1245’s endorsed candidates still fared exceptionally well. A whopping 96% of 1245-backed candidates in feder-

al and state races garnered enough votes to advance to the general election in November, while 84% of our endorsed candidates in local races won or advanced to a runoff in November — and there’s no doubt that our membership made the difference in some close races.

“The 1245 organizing team, organizing stewards and numerous staff members did a great job in putting out the word in support of our candidates,” said IBEW 1245 Assistant Business Manager Hunter Stern. “Sincere thanks to each and every 1245 member who worked to produce these impressive results in a difficult election. Now, on to November where we will need to work even harder to elect 1245 endorsed candidates in both California and Nevada!”

•••

In **Alameda county**, IBEW 1245 organizing stewards assisted the Labor Council in support of Kathryn Lybarger, a longtime labor leader who ran for Senate in District 7, as well as Nate Miley and Nikki Fortunato Bas for County Board of Supervisors.

Both of the 1245-endorsed candidates

for Alameda Board of Supervisors won, although only Miley won 50%+1 to win his seat outright. Bas, who helped 1245 pass the Safe Work Zone Ordinance in Oakland, garnered the most votes but did not achieve 50%+1, so she will face off against another opponent in the general election in November.

Lybarger, president of the California Labor Federation, unfortunately failed to garner enough votes to advance to the November election, but Local 1245 organizing stewards still valued the chance they had to support her campaign.

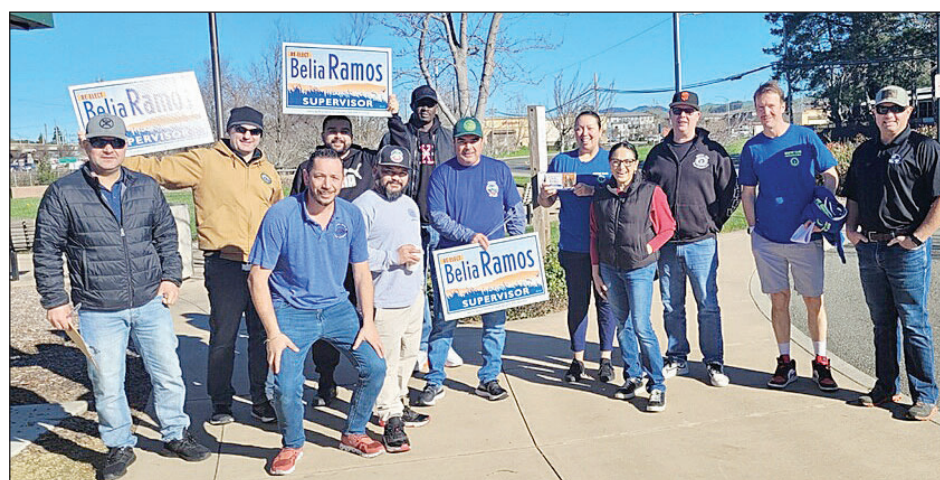
“Kathryn Lybarger frequently came to the Alameda Labor Council to be a part of the canvassing blitz, giving pep-talks and answering any questions from volunteers,” said Organizing Steward Ramona Garcia. “Not only was I campaigning for her as a candidate, but I actually now know her and have built a rapport with her, so that made me go even harder to try to help get more people to vote ... During the course of the two weeks, Tim and I completed 1470 calls while phone banking and knocked on 256 doors. I think that is an amazing piece of data for just two people.”

“When I saw Kathryn at the Joint Legislative Conference, it felt great that she knew me by name and thanked me again for all our efforts,” said Lead Organizing Steward Tim Neal. “I walked away from this experience with a fire in my belly, knowing in my heart this is something I love to do. I know 2024 will be a busy year and I look forward to the next campaign.”

In **Contra Costa county**, IBEW 1245 organizing stewards assisted the Labor Council in support of Lybarger, as well as Monica Wilson in Assembly District 15; Tim Grayson in Senate District 9; Diane Burgis for County Supervisor in District 3; and Shanelle Sale-Preston for County



Supporting Shanelle Sale-Preston for County Supervisor in Contra Costa



Supporting Bella Ramos for Napa County Supervisor



Getting out the vote for Sonny Dhaliwal for County Supervisor in San Joaquin county



Supervisor in District 5.

"We went canvassing daily rain or shine ... Over my two weeks being here, we canvassed many miles and knocked on more than 1,000 doors!" said new Organizing Steward Katherine Flores. "I truly enjoyed this experience and look forward to assisting on other union business! It was definitely hard work but worth it to get those into office that support our values and goals as union members."

"I am beyond thankful for these experiences that the union allows us to do, and I think it is so important for us to be involved," said Lead Organizing Steward Kayela Jones. "I can't wait for the next campaign and to learn even more than I already have."

In **Napa and Solano counties**, IBEW 1245 organizing stewards assisted the Labor Council in support of Board of Supervisors candidates Liz Alessio, Belia Ramos, Mitch Mashburn and Cassandra James.

"For me the best part was the neighborhoods we walked were on good, structured streets so we were able to reach out to many people," said Lead Organizing Steward Maria Renteria Orozco. "Everyone was very welcoming, and some knew the candidates already."

"I had a lot of fun interacting with people, and most of the people who answered the door thanked me for walking and reminding them to vote," added Organizing Steward Josh Sosa.

In the **North Valley**, IBEW 1245 supported the area Labor Federation campaigns for Sonny Dhaliwal for County Supervisor in District 3; former Congressman Jerry McNerney who is now running for State Senate; Jess Self for Assembly District 22; and former Assemblymember Adam Gray who is now running for Congress.

"I had the pleasure of having several meaningful conversations with voters who either support the union or have a loved one who is a union member. They shared their personal stories about how the union has positively impacted their families' lives and expressed gratitude for the availability of good jobs. These stories further motivated me to reach out to more people and explain why we endorse candidates who prioritize workers' rights," said Lead Organizing

Steward Nick Rodriguez. "Engaging with voters on the phone and in person allowed me and our group to establish meaningful connections, share important information about the candidates, and address any concerns voters had. Each conversation felt like a step towards building a stronger community and promoting candidates who are dedicated to serving the public."

"I had a great experience canvassing, where I was able to directly engage with members of the community and gain insights into their priorities. It was incredibly rewarding to listen to their perspectives and discuss how we could address their needs by electing the endorsed candidates," said Maria Caratachea Echeverria. "The North Valley Labor Federation provided the tools needed, and having a teammate to canvass with made the experience more enjoyable and I would also say effective. We would go in different directions to cover more ground, but I could always call Nick for support."

In the **South Bay**, IBEW 1245 supported the Labor Council campaigns for Supervisor candidates Otto Lee and Margaret Abe-Koga; along with San Jose City Council candidates Babu Prasad, Kansen Chu, Domingo Candelas and Lenka Wright.

"The work we did consisted of recruiting delegates, setting up precinct walks, printing scripts, organizing literature, dispatching canvassers, running phone banks, and joining the phonebanks by making calls," reported Lead Organizing Steward Brenda Balcazar. "We were making calls down to the last 30 minutes [before polls close], reminding and encouraging folks that that they still had time to get their ballots in. Overall, our roles at SBLC changed constantly, but we were both able to pivot and provide the best support possible."

"Phone banking was intimidating at



Making calls for candidates in the South Bay



Rosanna Herber with IBEW 1245 staffers, preparing to canvas in Sacramento

first, but after getting the groove of it, I was able to dial-in and become comfortable with both rejective and positive calls," said new Organizing Steward Luis Vega. "Supporting the South Bay Labor Council was a wonderful experience; it's great to collaborate with other unions within the community to attempt to secure a win for working class people."

The specific race whose results are still reverberating around the state is in the South Bay area. In Congressional District 16, where 11 names were on the ballot, two candidates — 1245-endorsed candidate Evan Low, and Joe Simitian — literally tied for second place; each with 17.5% of the vote. Former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo finished first with 21% of the vote. Under California law, the two tied candidates would advance with Liccardo to the general election in November. But on Wednesday April 10, two Liccardo supporters filed to have the vote challenged and demand a recount. At the time of this writing, Santa Clara county election officials are reviewing the demand and will render a decision shortly.

In **Sacramento**, IBEW 1245 supported City Council candidates Roger Dickenson, Eric Guerra and Mai Vang, all of whom were the top vote-getters in their respective races.

IBEW 1245 also worked to support SMUD Board member Rosanna Herber in her campaign for Assembly in District 6. She has been a good friend of IBEW 1245 and supported our membership

at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. Unfortunately, she did not get labor's endorsement through the Sacramento Labor Council in this crowded race, where six people were running for the open seat.

"1245 Business Manager Bob Dean committed IBEW 1245 staff and administrative staff to volunteer on Tuesdays and Thursdays for three weeks to assist Herber with house calls. A total of 18 staff walked for Herber, knocking on over 1,400 doors in the Sacramento area," IBEW 1245 Assistant Business Manager Rene Cruz Martinez reported. "While we are disappointed that Herber didn't succeed in her campaign for State Assembly, we look forward to continuing to work closely with her on key issues at SMUD."

Additionally, in the exceptionally close Sacramento Mayor's race where four candidates were within reach of the top spot, 1245-endorsed candidate and current Assemblymember Kevin McCarty ended up finishing second, by just over 100 votes, and will advance to the general election in November. The race was one of the closest in the state, with the fourth-place candidate only 150 votes behind McCarty in second. We look forward to electing McCarty as the next Mayor of Sacramento this fall.

To get involved in the November 2024 election, email [organizers@ibew1245.com](mailto:organizers@ibew1245.com)

*Hunter Stern and Rene Cruz Martinez contributed to this report.*



Utility Reporter



Local 1245 organizers with Kevin McCarty



# IBEW 1245 Member Helps Man Experiencing Drug Overdose

As a PG&E Vegetation Operations Inspector, four-year IBEW 1245 member John Schulthess oversees PG&E's vegetation management subcontractors in Sonoma County. During a work assignment on February 10 in Santa Rosa, Schulthess had stopped off at a gas station with a coworker who was shadowing him for the day. They were headed out to a job site when, out of the corner of his eye, Schulthess saw a man fall down and "hit the ground hard as heck," in his words.

As soon as the man went down, his two companions panicked and started to leave.

As a former Marine who served from 2016-2020, Schulthess is accustomed to dealing with emergency situations. His military training quickly kicked in and he began dialing 9-1-1 as he rushed over to the fallen man and called for the two

others to come back.

"I asked them to tell me what happened. They said he overdosed on fentanyl," Schulthess said.

Schulthess knew that fentanyl exposure is potentially lethal, and that he needed to proceed carefully for his own safety.

In order to determine if the fallen man was breathing, he asked the other men who were already exposed to the drug to pull up his shirt.

"There was no rise and fall of the chest," he recalled.

Schulthess discovered that one of the men had some Narcan, which can treat narcotic overdose in an emergency, he had received it from a local program that gives it out for free. Schulthess directed the friend to administer the life-saving medication to the fallen man.

"I asked his buddy if he knew how to

give CPR—he said no. I started to walk him through it, but EMS was close and got there soon after we started chest compressions," said Schulthess.

When the ambulance arrived, the paramedics took over chest compressions and were able to successfully revive the fallen man as the Narcan kicked in.



"In any situation, you have to be able to look around and assess the situation and take in the whole scene. That comes into the line of work that IBEW members deal with," said Schulthess. "You need to assess the scene, otherwise you could become a second victim that somebody else needs to help."

Schulthess has been an IBEW 1245 member since 2020 and with PG&E for about two years. He is thankful for the union backing and his collective bar-

gaining agreement. He also credits the IBEW for bolstering PG&E's commitment to hiring veterans like himself.

His background as a Marine, coupled with the regular CPR and First Aid trainings IBEW members receive at work, gave Schulthess the skills and knowledge needed to respond quickly but thoughtfully in a seriously life-threatening situation.

According to Schulthess, we cannot wait for someone else to act — especially when we may be the only ones around with any sort of CPR and First Aid training.

"You can make a difference by being there, being the person who is willing to speak up and take action," he said.



## IBEW Outside Line Crew Assists Injured Man

In early February, California was hit by a major storm event that resulted in hundreds of thousands of residents and businesses losing power. IBEW crews responded immediately to remove downed trees and replace damaged poles and lines in order to restore power as quickly as possible.

On Feb. 8, an IBEW crew from Veteran Power Infrastructure (VPI) was transporting a utility pole to a work loca-

tion in Napa, California as part of the power restoration effort. While en route, the crew came across a group of residential tree trimmers close to the road. They noticed that one of the men was on the ground, suffering from a head injury, and they pulled off to help.

Upon arrival, the VPI crew was told that a tree fell the wrong direction, striking the man in the head.

They knew he needed immediate

medical assistance, but when they attempted to call for help, they were unable to get a cell phone signal due to the remote location. At that point, Crew Foreman Jeston Clopein dropped a pin at the location and drove towards an area with better service. When he found cell coverage, Clopein, a travelling Journeyman Lineman from IBEW LU 70, contacted 9-1-1, and Cal Fire arranged a life flight helicopter to the location.



The VPI crew, from left: Crew Foreman Justin Clopein, Groundman Ricky Sanchez and Journeyman Lineman Honorato Chavez

While Clopein was driving to find a cell signal, IBEW 1245 Journeyman Lineman Honorato Chavez, and his fellow crew member Ricky Sanchez, a travelling Groundman from IBEW LU 57, used their CPR and first aid training to tend to the injured man. Upon checking his vitals, they found that he was unresponsive and not breathing at that time. Chavez rolled the man on his side, to help open the airway and keep him from choking on blood. Once he was on his side, the injured man began to breathe again. Shortly after, the Cal Fire life flight helicopter arrived and transported the man to a medical facility.

While the current condition of the injured man is not known, the heroic actions of these IBEW members provided him with the best possible outcome.

— Ethan Stonecipher, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

### Health and Safety, from page 3

from the top or the bottom and catches hair or under layers on fire); where there's a meltable base-layer (undershirts that are non-FR will melt or burn beneath the outer FR, causing burns); and where there's a third party in non-FR (non-suited observer are often a supervisor or assistant). The last two were simply not wearing FR and wearing counterfeit FR, it was interesting to see the number of FR garments being sold on the internet at prices that were "too good to be true."

Along with their presentation on technology, Tyndale had a moving presentation from Jason Brozen on his struggles to recover from surviving an Arc Flash. Tyndale has produced a video describing his injury

and recovery as part of its "Arc-Week" series of videos available online.

- National Safety Council's Sarah Van Huis presented information about the many advances in driving safety technology and the hazards of distracted driving. In her presentation, she discussed the role of the vehicle's design in keeping occupants in the safest position in cases of collision, and the numerous applications and systems that are being built into newer vehicles to help us avoid accidents. One statistic that stuck with the members was that 63% of fatalities were vehicle-related in 2020. The NSC rolled out a campaign on safe driving this April and has more information at [nsc.org/justdrive](https://nsc.org/justdrive).

- Matthew Camphor of QUANTA and

Dr. Matthew Hallowell of the University of Colorado spoke separately but both touched on High Energy and Controls to prevent Serious Injury and Fatality (SIF). Camphor discussed in detail Quanta's journey to understanding that the electrical industry was not making any significant impact on SIF due to focusing on rules (OSHA) or behavior (discipline). Hallowell discussed the foundational research on High Energy Controls and Assessment (HECA), that would help the industry move towards the kind of leading indicators that would allow us to truly measure safety. Both of these presenters highlighted the critical importance of moving to the kind of safety culture that recognizes that every person will make mistakes, and that punishing them for doing so is counterproductive.

- There were several presentations on mental health and suicide prevention, as well as training on opioid addiction and naloxone usage. One of the most common ways people become introduced to opioids is through the treatment of work-related musculoskeletal injuries. There were presentations by several members who had suffered through the passing of brothers and family due to suicide.

- The Brothers of IBEW Local 103 (Boston MA) held an AA meeting to show how they had decided to tackle the growing issues of addiction in their area. The dialog was compelling, and it is obvious that these brothers are doing everything they can to support their IBEW family.

— Jody Castro, IBEW 1245 Safety Director



# "VISION TO REALITY"

## Highlights from the 34th Electrical Workers Minority Caucus Leadership Conference

The 34th Annual IBEW Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) Leadership Conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia from January 10 - 14, 2024. The theme — **Vision to Reality: EWMC Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence, Wisdom, Mentorship, and Courage** — was reflected in the speakers, workshops, and spirit of brotherhood which was present throughout the conference.

"The EWMC Leadership Conference is one of the most powerful and dynamic conferences within IBEW," remarked IBEW 1245 Staff Organizer Charlotte Stevens. "It was at my first EWMC conference that I realized there was a place for me in our union."

"The 50th-anniversary celebration allowed us to look back on the progress made and reaffirmed our commitment to fostering leadership, diversity, and inclusion within the IBEW," added IBEW 1245 Business Rep Gerald Williams.

This year's event was attended by 720 IBEW members from across the country. Local 1245 sent a 22-person delegation, including staff, rank and file members, leaders and retirees.

"Our group was diverse, multi-generational, men and women of all creeds and colors. Members from [different employers], from all lines of business, gas, electric, mechanics, fleet, customer service — all as one, just the way Dr. King fought and died for it to be," said 1245 Organizing Steward Brandon Fosselman. "I made new friendships that will last a lifetime and was able to spend time and get to know some people that I may see in passing but haven't had the time to sit down and get to know."

The conference was packed with inspiring speakers, including voting rights activist and former Georgia State

Representative Stacey Abrams, who reminded attendees that the American Dream is for everyone despite those who are trying to take it away by suppressing voting rights and education. Cedric Richmond, who co-chaired the Biden/Harris campaign, also spoke, along with Yvonne T. Brooks, President of the Georgia State AFL-CIO, who gave 1245 a shout out for the support our union provided them during key elections in 2017 and 2021.

"After hearing Stacey Abrams, International President Kenneth Cooper, EWMC President Emeritus Robbie Sparks, amongst many others, I am fired up and ready to go this election year," said IBEW 1245 Recording Secretary Rachael Segale. "We need to increase the voter turnout and explain to members the importance of voting in the best interest of not only our Unions but our livelihoods. We need to not only organize the unorganized, but organize the organized as well."

The workshops presented participants with the opportunity to dive deeper into challenging topics. Dr. Keith Dempsey returned to the conference with his powerful workshop on mental health. IBEW 1245's retiree Dorothy Fortier taught the workshop "Knowing the IBEW Structure (Parliamentary Procedures)," and other workshops included Building Political Coalitions, Mentoring, and Effective Communication.

"The conference was overflowing with knowledge," said IBEW 1245 Shop Steward Eric Wright. "I took several workshops during the four-day conference and they all provided me with knowledge I didn't know I needed, and will definitely utilize back at home and more importantly at work."

As a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King



1245 delegates with IBEW International leadership

Jr., EWMC always incorporates community service opportunities into every conference. Some of the projects at the 2024 conference included electrical work and maintenance at churches, veterans homes, community outreach centers, and cemeteries. Others included explaining the electrical trade and demonstrations for school-age children and reading books at various schools.

"I was able to help at a local VFW," IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward Donny Davis recalled. "Listening to stories from a couple of speakers on how the Union changed their lives, and hearing the impact of how other Unions under IBEW/EWMC across the country are

positively impacting their communities really filled my spirit."

"It was amazing being in such a pivotal place of the civil rights movement on Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. We got to visit the National Center for Civic and Human Rights and the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Park. Both were truly powerful to witness the fight for equality," reported 1245 Steward Foster Goree. "An ongoing theme for the conference was 'It's not about being a minority but minorities creating a better majority.' This stuck with me, because this holds true no matter what you apply it to: in your everyday life, work life or the fight for the union difference."

continued on page 11



IBEW 1245 delegates volunteered to provide a demonstration about electricity at the Canby Lane school.

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IBEW 1245 sisters at the EWMC awards gala



IBEW 1245 brothers at the awards gala



# “Our Voice, Our Ballot, Our Future”

## Highlights from the MLK Civil Rights Conference

Six delegates represented IBEW 1245 at the AFL-CIO’s 2024 Martin Luther King Jr. Civil and Human Rights Conference, which took place over MLK Day weekend in Montgomery, Alabama — the birthplace of King’s fight for civil rights.

The conference featured several compelling speeches and presentations from distinguished leaders, including US Senator Laphonza Butler, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler, and acting US Secretary of Labor Julie Su.

“Julie Su, the acting secretary of labor, motivated me by offering guidance on how I might assist in resolving problems that our members are encountering,” said 1245 Organizing Steward Tania Rios. “She stated that ... ‘Union is not a bad word — it is the reason America is strong. It is the reason America is going to grow stronger. It is the engine for economic and human rights. It is how we are going to achieve the promise of American democracy.’”

“I had the opportunity to listen to multiple leaders who spoke on what it means to make a difference and stand up for what we believe as a unit in solidarity,” said 1245 Organizing Steward Derrick Maynard. “I learned (and believe) that knowledge is power and speaking up and not staying silent is powerful. I learned that if we demand change, we need to make the difference. Our Voice, Our Ballot, Our Future.”

The conference workshops touched on a variety of topics, including the right to organize and protect immigrant workers; transactional to transformational organizing; fighting for voting rights; and Artificial Intelligence.

“I was aware of AI, but I had never considered how this technology could affect my fellow brothers and sisters [before this workshop],” said 1245 Organizing Steward Teresa Aguilar. “Among the many adverse effects of technology are the erosion of profes-



The IBEW 1245 delegation with IBEW International Assistant to the International President, Jjammi Ouellette (who began her career with IBEW 1245)

sional discretion and originality, the loss of jobs and displacement of our members, and invasive monitoring and micromanagement. While we may not be able to halt the development of new technologies, we can raise awareness, educate our members, and pass laws to control AI in the workplace.”

“The workshop on ‘transaction to transformation’ focused on how to shift conversations and shift people’s perspective regarding labor issues,” said Organizing Steward Josh Sosa. “It was very valuable for my future organizing endeavors because we had an opportunity to practice with a partner the skills we were taught.”

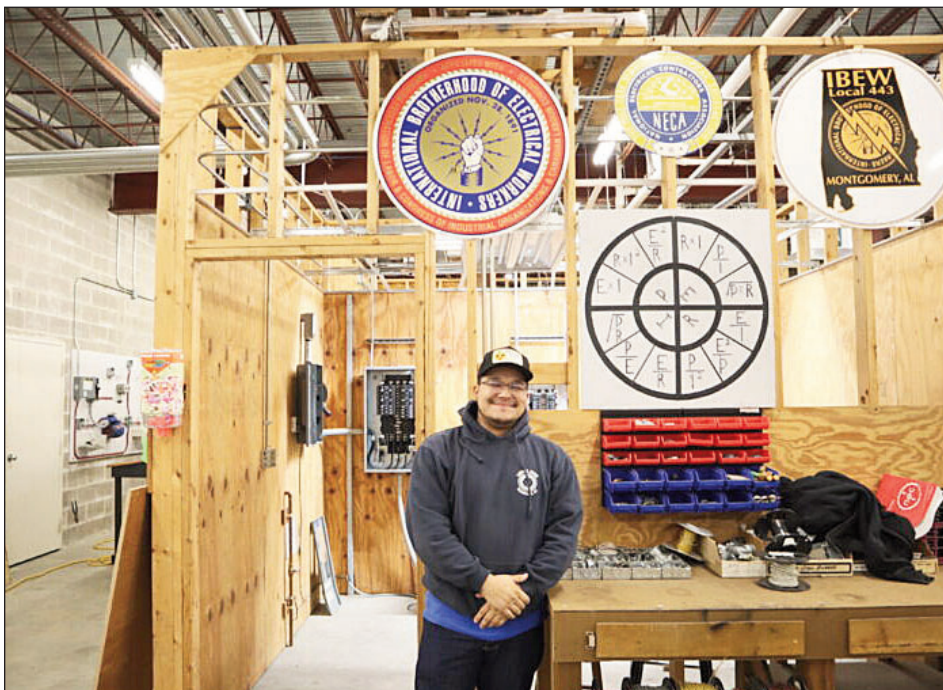
Delegates also participated in community service activities; the Local 1245 delegation helped bag up clothes and toiletries for families in need. Additionally, the 1245 delegation also had the opportunity to visit the Montgomery local of the IBEW, meet with their Business Manager, and learn about their

brotherhood.

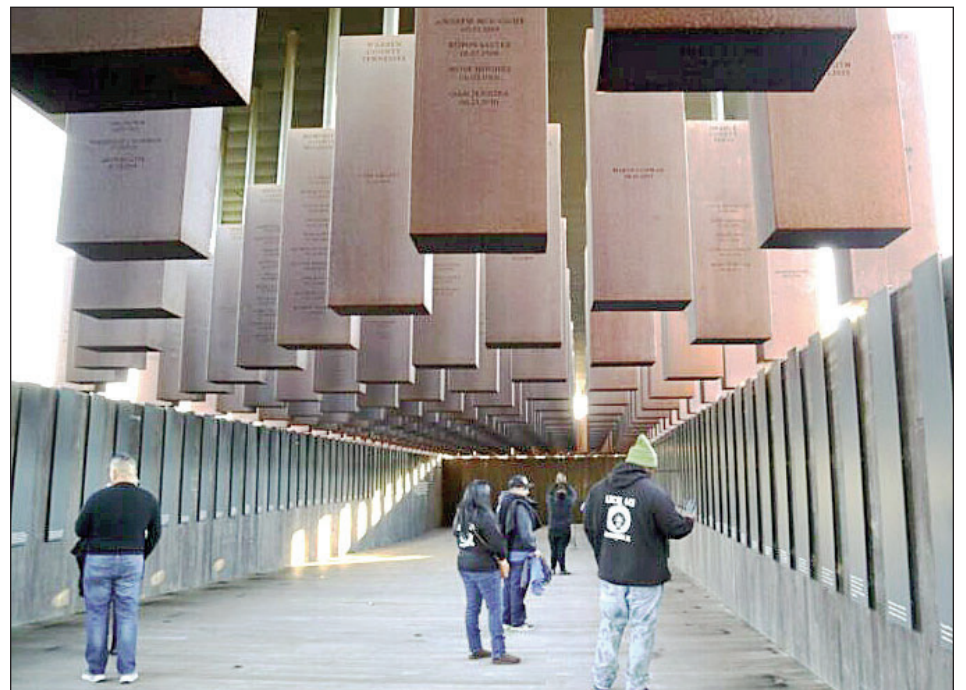
The conference concluded on Sunday with a tour of the Legacy Museum, which features a series of powerful and hard-hitting exhibits that document the horrific and brutal history of the slave trade. Many of the delegates were moved to tears by what they saw and learned.

“The two-hour museum stay was emotional to say the least. Learning how big banks were financing the sale of human beings was shocking. Seeing the

pictures and simulations made you feel the sadness and the strength African Americans experienced during this time,” said IBEW 1245 Assistant Business Manager Rene Cruz Martinez. “But one thing is for sure — the labor movement will always be tied with human and civil rights. We are still fighting for decent working conditions and fair pay for those without representation in this country. I left feeling a sense of motivation to keep fighting the good fight.”



The 1245 delegation visited the Alabama IBEW Local 443 union hall.



The Legacy Museum moved many of the delegates to tears.



# “Fired Up and Ready to Go”

## IBEW 1245 Organizing Stewards Inducted

Nearly 100 IBEW 1245 organizing stewards gathered at the Sunrise Center in Vacaville, where they were inducted into the Class of 2024 at the first IBEW 1245 Advisory Council meeting of the year.

“These are 1245’s shock troops who door knock, phone bank, fill the hearing halls, and city halls to defend the interests of our members,” declared 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean. “Thank you for what we do.”

This year marks the tenth anniversary of 1245’s award-winning organizing steward program. Launched in 2014 following successful organizing campaigns for NV Energy retirees and PG&E clerical members, IBEW 1245 organizing stewards have won national recognition for their organizing, political education, and solidarity with sister locals.

“Ten years is a big accomplishment,” said IBEW 1245 President Cecelia De La Torre. “{In 2014} we started with only 28; here we are right now with 119.”

This year’s organizing stewards hail from PG&E, NV Energy, SMUD, the City of Vallejo, Merced Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, the City of Lompoc, and Trayer Manufacturing. The group includes both active and retired IBEW members who will be on the front lines as IBEW 1245 defends its work and contracts; mobilizes for local, state, and federal elections; continue its internal organizing blitz in the City of Vallejo; and ramps up organizing efforts at manufacturing facilities in both California and Nevada.

Assistant Business Manager Rene Cruz Martinez, who took over the program in 2021 from veteran organizers Fred Ross and Eileen Purcell, cele-

brated this year’s class, calling them “one of our strongest groups ever.” He recognized the stellar organizing team which has staffed the work, including Organizers Charlotte Stevens and Rick Thompson, also with Organizing Stewards Que Thompson and Donny Davis who are filling in as temporary staffers.



As 1245 President De la Torre prepared to administer the oath, the Organizing Stewards each raised their hands. Together, they proudly pledged to “*further the purposes for which the IBEW is instituted, with a focus on educating and mobilizing our members and the larger community to support worker organization and the recognition of worker’s rights and dignity.*”

In keeping with tradition, Cruz Martinez introduced lead Organizing Stew-

ard Serena Moss to share her speech on behalf of the 2024 Class. Moss, a 19-year member of IBEW 1245 and meter technician at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), shared the union difference in her family’s life.

“In 2004, I was hired as an apprentice Meter Tech at SMUD and journeyed out in 2008,” she said. “Because of my union-negotiated pay, I qualified for a mortgage, and bought a home. My sole union job helped two women {me and my mom} become homeowners.”

Moss closed her remarks saying, “I want to thank IBEW 1245 for the countless opportunities to have a voice and be active in my union. Thank you to the organizing team for empowering us to be leaders at work and in our communities. We are ready and will stay ready for the fights and challenges ahead. We are fired up and ready to go!”



The Organizing Stewards swearing in ceremony



Serena Moss



The 2024 Organizing Stewards

### Vision to Reality, from page 9

While the conference was about reflecting on the progress that the IBEW has made, it was also about looking ahead to the future. In his remarks, IBEW International President Kenneth Cooper set a bold goal for membership, stating, “our strength is in our diversity,

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and that is how we will reach one million members in five years.”

To achieve this goal, every IBEW member must help to ensure our union is both strong and inclusive far into the future.

“As we move forward, let us remember the timeless manifesto: This is Your Union, This is My Union, This is Our

Union,” said 1245 Organizing Steward Tamara Cacuyoga. “Together, let us continue to build a legacy of inclusion, empowerment, and progress within the IBEW and our communities.”

“I am very grateful and thankful that I was given the opportunity to attend this amazing conference, and walk away with such a wonderful rewarding

experience that has filled my toolbox with the tools needed to move forward with being empowered,” added IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward Iyasha Davis. “I’m ready to empower others, ready to stand in line and lead the charge for others to have the experience that this wonderful union that I belong to offers its members.”



# Solidarity in the South

## IBEW 1245 Supports Organizing Campaign at Westinghouse

When the IBEW International Office reached out to Local 1245 for assistance with a tough union organizing campaign in South Carolina — the state with the lowest unionization rate in the United States — our union heeded the call as always.

Local 1245 dispatched two organizing stewards to participate in a week-long union organizing ‘blitz’ at Westinghouse, a nuclear fabrication facility in Columbia, SC, as the workers there prepared for a union election. 1245 Organizing Stewards Donny Davis and Kimberly Kendricks joined up with IBEW organizers from half a dozen other local unions to support the 682 skilled workers fighting for their rights at the plant.

This union election was some five years in the making; the workers first reached out to organize with the IBEW in 2019, reinvigorated their effort in 2022, circulated authorization cards in 2023 and filed for union election in early 2024.

The extremely diverse workforce, which is predominantly African American and female, sought union representation in the hopes of securing fair wages (especially overtime pay) and safer working conditions (extremely critical given the nature of the dangerous chemicals and compounds they work



around), as well as decent benefits, improved staffing levels, and a more fair and equitable workplace.

Unfortunately, the employer wasted no time fighting back with aggressive and illegal anti-union tactics. Westinghouse hired a high-priced union buster to threaten and intimidate the workers into opposing unionization. In a blatant violation of the National Labor Relations Act, the employer went so far as to circulate a bogus list of ‘consequences’ to the

workers if they vote for the union — threatening to cut wages, eliminate benefits and even close down the plant.

The union election was scheduled for Feb. 29 – March 2, and during the final weeks leading up to the vote, the hostility inside the plant reached new levels as union-busters cultivated extreme fear and anxiety. The volunteer organizing committee at Westinghouse needed more support — and that’s when they called for reinforcements.

“The opportunity to assist on this campaign couldn’t have come at a better time; I had just successfully completed the Organizing Institute training at the beginning of February, so I felt best prepared,” said 1245 Organizer Donny Davis. “As usual, we did home visits and phone banking. Over the last few days, we participated in an event called ‘honk and wave.’ Expressing our solidarity, members of our team stood outside the gate of the Westinghouse property every day from 5am until midnight (in the rain, wind, and 42-degree weather), holding signs and greeting the employees both coming and going. This was my first time participating in an event like this, it was great to see the brave employees honk their horns and express their appreciation for us.”

The IBEW organizers worked tire-

lessly to combat the union-busting tactics, but ultimately, they were unable to overcome the threats and intimidation from management. Even though 59% of the workers had already signed union authorization cards, the final vote count was 246 in favor of the union, and 379 opposed.

“Even though this campaign didn’t have a positive outcome, I know our efforts had an impact on the community,” said Davis. “Westinghouse is a generational employer, meaning there are men and women whose parents and grandparents have worked there. By spreading the word and attempting to help them unionize, I know this campaign will resonate with all impacted, both directly and indirectly. This fight is far from over, we will be back!”

IBEW 10th District Vice President Brent Hall expressed his appreciation for the help that 1245 lent to the campaign. In a letter to 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean, he wrote:

“I wish to thank you for your support of the Westinghouse campaign in South Carolina and the assistance you sent with your organizers for such a tough assignment. South Carolina has the smallest union density and membership of any state in the union, and these workers made a statement by standing up to a big corporation. It is unfortunate that Westinghouse used the age-old tactics to scare and intimidate the workers with union busting consultants, but the IBEW’s presence was felt by all. The workers at Westinghouse proved that you could make your voice heard even through intimidation and threats from management. Going forward, we have a plan to continue our presence in the community, staying involved with the workers until they can try again in one year. I am confident we will prevail the next time as now these workers know the feeling that the IBEW brotherhood brings to the workplace.”



**IBEW organizers from across the country came together to support the workers organizing at Westinghouse in South Carolina.**



# Local 1245 Delegates Meet Face-to-Face With Lawmakers at the California State Association of Electrical Workers (CSAEW) Conference

The California State Association of Electrical Workers (CSAEW) Conference took place on February 26 - 28, 2024, in Sacramento, CA. This informative three-day conference included an overview of our priority legislative bills that would benefit both IBEW members and the communities they serve, followed by a full day of lobbying lawmakers to urge them to vote "Yes" on these priority bills. The 1245 delegation included President Cecilia De la Torre and Vice President Willis Garris, Staffers Hunter Stern, Rene Cruz-Martinez, and myself, and Organizing Stewards Steve Ross, Erica Davalos-Cruz, John Hoang, and Nilda Holguin.

Labor warrior and Assemblymember Liz Ortega addressed the conference attendees with a spirited speech about safety and her ongoing support for labor. We also heard from a number of other notable leaders, including Superintendent Tony Thurmond, State Treasurer Fiona Ma, and Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins.

Lobbyist Scott Wetch explained the details of the legislative bills, and with our marching orders, the staff and organizing stewards lobbied both Senators and Assemblymembers. Our priorities included NEM reform subsidies, and the need for well-crafted fixed charge so that every investor-owned utility residential electric customer pays their fair share, including rooftop solar customers. This experience provided our organizing stewards with the unique opportunity to increase their depth of knowledge, and then immediately apply that knowledge with a direct action.

"The best part of the conference would have to be when we went to the Capitol offices and spoke with the representatives. All of them were very aware of who we were and understood the need for the bills we want to help pass," said Organizing Steward Erica Davalos-Cruz. "The most difficult part would have been speaking about such bills ... but with the help of my fellow union members going into these meetings with us, we were able to piggy-back off each other, and it made it seem easy."

We also reminded legislators that we will continue to oppose SB 284 if it attempts to return. Before leaving their office, we left a flyer and invited members to the Utility Worker Day of Action on March 13.

— Charlotte Stevens,  
IBEW 1245 Staff Organizer



IBEW delegates with Assemblymember Liz Ortega



IBEW delegates with Senator Toni Atkins



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IBEW 1245 members from PG&E prepare to perform an inline inspection on a gas main at the Santa Rosa compressor station.

# PIPE CHECK

## IBEW 1245 GPOM members perform in-line gas pipeline inspection

**I**BEW 1245 members are responsible for the safe and reliable transmission of natural gas throughout northern and central California's 6,700 miles of gas transmission pipelines — and a major piece of that responsibility lies in spotting potential problems before they occur. To perform this highly specialized work, IBEW 1245 gas members are uniquely trained to operate incredibly complex pipeline inspection tools.

The *Utility Reporter* recently caught up with an IBEW 1245 Gas Pipeline Operations and Maintenance (GPOM) crew at PG&E's Santa Rosa Compressor Station, where they were performing an inline inspection on a gas transmission main.

Nineteen-year IBEW 1245 member Autumn Donelson, who works as a Gas Control Tech in the Sonoma Division/North Coast District for PG&E, explained that pipeline inspections involve a series of different tools, each more complex than the last, all designed to root out any potential concerns.

"Today we are launching a MFLC tool," Donelson explained. "It is the longest, most difficult tool of the group. We're on our fifth day of tool runs, and I believe this is the ninth tool that we've

put through the pipe."

The goal of the testing is to scan the gas transmission pipeline from the inside looking for anomalies. Using magnets and sensors, the multimillion-dollar tool examines the long seam welds and the circumferential welds and can determine the inside dimension of the pipeline, as well as the wall thickness throughout the pipe.

The MFLC tool set off on its long journey from the Santa Rosa compressor station through Healdsburg to Ukiah in a process that would take a little over two hours. To get there, the tool is pushed and pulled with the flow of gas.

"I'm controlling the compressor station right now," explained Donelson. "I'm pushing at a

set pressure and flow, and the ILI (In-Line Inspection) engineering team will be on the phone with me telling me how fast they want it to go. I log into flow meters along the way, and I adjust my facility to match what they need."

"I'm going to keep it traveling at about five miles per hour," he added. "Anything more, and it gets to points where it stops or slows down and then speeds up when it frees itself ... They don't have enough time to get all the data when that happens."

Once the data is collected, it takes a couple of days to get the report back. They can usually spot immediate anomalies or serious problems within two weeks. The report is then sent to the ILI engineering team and a risk team for further analysis.

"They get all the data and tell us where the problems are ... they flag those sites, and then that goes to the dig team, and they actually excavate," Donelson explained. "They put eyes on it and they validate, and then we adjust the pipeline condition based on the problem."

GPOM work requires extensive knowledge and serious attention to detail, and Donelson recognizes the role that IBEW 1245 plays in his crew's ability to perform their work safely and correctly.

"The union gives us the protection that we need to be able to have a stronger voice and try and get what we deserve ... to have somebody to go to fight your fight so that you can continue to work is priceless," Donelson said. "We are treated well. We are working on some hiccups, but overall, when everybody takes a step back, it's all a good thing. We're all in a good position."

*Photos by John Storey*

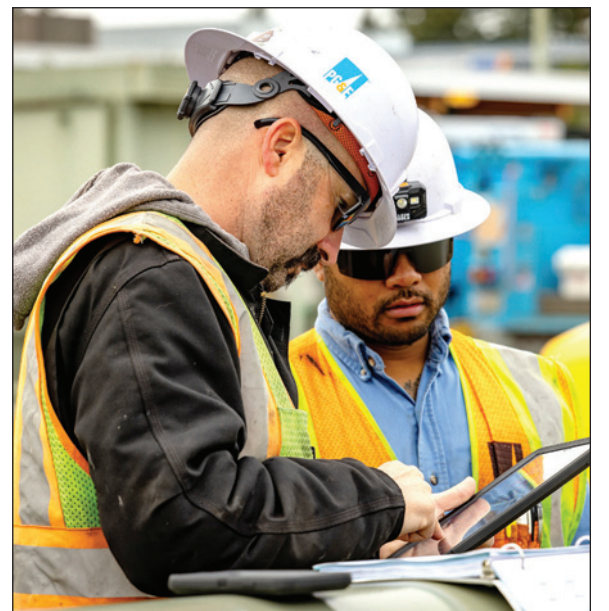


Gas Control Tech Autumn Donelson





IBEW Local 1245 members from PG&E Gas Department insert a MFLAC tool into the gas main running to Willits from Santa Rosa to check for pipeline anomalies.







IBEW 1245 members, donning red union tee shirts, showed up in force at the Vallejo City Council meeting on April 23.

## IBEW 1245 Members Pack Vallejo City Council Meeting to Call for Good Faith Bargaining, Better Pay and Benefits

**I**BEW 1245 members at the City of Vallejo have begun long anticipated contract negotiations in a bold attempt to reverse years of sacrifice following the Great Recession and bankruptcy that contributed to low wages, understaffing and high turnover rates.

Supported by IBEW 1245 Business Representative Kim Camatti, the bargaining committee has held two meetings with the City, and set the stage to demand a compensation/benefits package more in line with comparable agencies across the Bay.

At the Vallejo City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 more than 70 City employees — all IBEW 1245 bargaining unit members — packed the City Hall in an impressive showing of strength to support their bargaining team. They were joined by members from GVRD (Greater Vallejo Recreation District) and twelve organizing stewards and staff who came from Fresno, Sacramento and San Francisco to stand in solidarity with them.

Many of those present at the meeting had participated in IBEW 1245's organizing drive to build union density at the City. Camatti and the IBEW 1245 Organizing Team conducted trainings at the Union Hall about the union difference

and the importance of a strong, unified membership as IBEW 1245 leading up to labor negotiations. Working with a handful of strong leaders, they grew a strong Volunteer Organizing Committee (VOC). Over the course of six months, VOC members reached out to their co-workers and encouraged them to sign up as union members. Union density grew from 52% to more than 75%, and is still growing. The work bore fruit as evidenced by the sea of red shirts at City Hall.

"Our members are biting at the bit for action and to be involved. They're happy to be here because they've been waiting a long time for these negotiations," declared Camatti.

In her testimony to the City Council, Camatti said, "We represent more than 200 employees in nearly every department: Public Works, Water Distribution, City Hall, Police, Fire, and Housing to name a few ... Our members, many of whom reside right here in the City of Vallejo, have sacrificed for years so that the City can prosper ... Using mutually agreed upon comparison agencies and metrics, our Union prepared a total compensation survey that demonstrated our members are 16.78% below average in total compensation and 21.71% below average in wages. We are fighting

for the survival of our membership and the future of this City. We expect better. We deserve better. We demand better."

James Olson, a member of the 1245 bargaining committee at Vallejo, has worked with the City for 25 years as a Senior Landscape Inspector. In his testimony to the City Council, he said, "For the last sixteen years we've gone without. We took a 16% pay cut and we've only made 6% back in the last four years. It's time for [the City] to recognize our members and their contributions."

Fellow Bargaining Committee Member Josh Davidson, a Utility Supervisor who has worked at the City of Vallejo for 14 years, added, "We would like our City to deal with us in a respectful and professional manner. They need to do better with how they deal with our bargaining team."

"I'm here to support our union, to stand up for what I believe is right, and

to support the people who support me," said Lamar Reyes, a Traffic Signal Technician. "I would like to see equitable pay for the work we do. For as much as we do and that there is to do in this City, we deserve more pay."

Matt Herrera, a Senior Engineering Technician and Construction Inspector with 16 years at the City, declared, "I'm here to support our membership so that Council and City bigwigs can see our strength in numbers and see what we mean to this city. We're here because we're trying to make our city better. We'd like to see a partnership."

Following the public comment, the group reconvened in the parking lot where Camatti, Davidson and Olson thanked everyone for showing up in a powerful display of unity and strength as they return to the table.

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

## IBEW 1245 Members At Moss Landing Power Plant Approve New Three-Year Agreement

**T**he IBEW 1245 members at Moss Landing Power Plant have ratified a new three-year agreement by a vote of 20 - 10.

The agreement includes general wage increases of 5% in 2024, 3.5% in 2025, and 3.25% in 2026. Additionally, the union negotiated the addition of a new contractual holiday (Martin Luther King Day); and increase in bereavement leave from three to five days; increase in jury duty leave from 10 to 15 days; improvements to vacation scheduling language; three new discretionary benefits; and

improved scheduling language for employees in the battery storage group. In exchange for these improvements, the union agreed to the employer's request to adjust/prorate vacation and sick leave accruals for new hires during their first calendar year.

The IBEW 1245 negotiating team included members Weston Miller, Nick Covello, and Ted Ursino, Senior Assistant Business Manager Al Fortier, and myself.

— Jaime Tinoco, IBEW 1245 Business Rep







Celebrating the inaugural class of graduates from the SMUD/IBEW Lineworker Scholarship Program

## IBEW 1245 Partners With SMUD on Scholarship Training Program for Aspiring Apprentice Lineworkers

This year, IBEW 1245 teamed up with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District to launch an intensive, all-expenses-paid training designed to equip graduates with essential skills to enter and thrive in apprenticeship programs in a variety of utility trades and ultimately clean energy careers.

The IBEW 1245/SMUD Scholarship Program provides participants with

foundational training in pole climbing techniques, proper tool usage, safety protocols, equipment installation on wood poles and ground work. The curriculum emphasizes hands-on learning, ensuring real-world experience and offering participants with a competitive edge for linework apprenticeship programs. The program includes a paid stipend and certificate of completion.

On Sunday, March 10, the inaugural class of 26 graduates gathered with their families at the SMUD Power Academy to celebrate the completion of this challenging program. The grads also had the chance to show off their new climbing skills for their loved ones.

“We’re incredibly proud to partner with SMUD on this ground-breaking program,” said IBEW Local 1245 Busi-

ness Manager Bob Dean. “On behalf of IBEW 1245 and our executive board, our heartfelt congratulations to each and every graduate. This is a life-changing opportunity, and we look forward to seeing you grow and thrive as you continue down the path towards becoming Journeymen and joining us in our IBEW family.”

*photo courtesy of SMUD*

## Members Approve New Four-Year Agreement at Modesto Irrigation District

On March 6, 2024, the three bargaining units at Modesto Irrigation District voted to approve a four-year tentative agreement. The agreement includes a general wage increase of 3% retroactive back to Jan. 14, followed by annual wage increases of 3%, 5% and 5%.

The bargaining committee worked hard to try and achieve many of the items that the members were looking for. We negotiated the removal of two-tiered wages for approximately 73 employees. These employees will not only receive the general wage increase, but also an additional 5% each year of the agreement until the effected employee reaches the grandfathered wages. So, by the end of the agreement, there will be no two-tiered wages for any bargaining unit member. We also negoti-



MID bargaining committee, from left to right — Steve Carlson, Sheila Lawton, Jessica Stillwell, Bill Campbell, Travis Weese, Cassandra Gamez, Mike Gomes, Rich Behler, kneeling in front is Alex Anderson.

ated multiple equity adjustments for various classifications that needed an additional increase.

We were able to obtain final and binding arbitration for our grievance procedure. We achieved enhancements to our Dental, Vision, LTD, and Life insurance, and the District will provide employer-paid STD. We negotiated many language improvements throughout the agreement, with no takeaways. The committee worked very hard for the six months that it took to get to a final agreement. I want to extend a special thank you to the committee members — Steve Carlson, Jessica Stillwell, Bill Campbell, Travis Weese, Cassandra Gamez, Mike Gomes, Rich Behler, and Alex Anderson — for all the work and time they put in to get us over the finish line.

— Sheila Lawton, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

## New Agreement Approved a Frontier Colusa/Shingletown

The IBEW 1245 members working for Frontier Communications Colusa/Shingletown have ratified a new agreement by a vote of 7-1. The agreement includes wage increases of 1.5% effective March 2, 2024, 1.5% effective September 7, 2024, 1.5% effective March 1, 2025, 1.5% effective September 6, 2025, 1.5% effective March 7, 2026, 1.5% effective September 5, 2026, 2.0% effective March 6, 2027, and 1.5% effective September 4, 2027.

The union also negotiated

- Addition of one holiday (Juneteenth);

- Increase standby pay from \$40 to \$65 per 24-hour period plus clarification on the duty tour, standby assignment, and the ability for employees to trade standby duty periods;
- Increase in meal allowance and removal of the restriction of the meal purchase through the ProCard;
- Increase the per-diem from \$20.00 to \$27.50 on the first and last day of the assignment, plus increase to all other days from \$40.00 to \$55.00 per day;
- Removal of the expectation that an

employee uses their personal vehicle for Company use;

- Increase the weekly clothing allowance from \$5.00 to \$7.00; change from boot reimbursement, now providing an annual allowance of \$200; and
- Increase the in-charge differential from \$1.25 to \$1.70 per hour.

The agreement also includes implementation of a GPS, TMS, and Dual Facing Dash Cam agreement, as well as coaching prior to discipline and a rolling time period in which infractions roll off the employee’s record. Additionally,

the union and the company agreed to a modification of Section 14.3 related to temporary transfers out of the headquarters, stipulating that an employee will be paid a stipend for the hours of temporary transfer as follows: (\$6 per hour straight time, \$9 per hour for 1.5x, and \$12 per hour for 2X).

In addition to the mentioned economic changes, there have been numerous other non-economic changes and language cleanup throughout the TA. The committee consisted of William “Chris” Harmon, Lee Neathamer, and myself.

— Dominic McCurtain, IBEW 1245 Business Rep





# Working Up The Hill

IBEW 1245 crew working for Family Tree. Front row, from left: Journeyman Tree Trimmer Christian Stringham and Apprentice Climber Enrique Diaz. Back row: Foreman Sam Martinez, Journeyman Tree Trimmer Elliot Paeyeneers, Journeyman Tree Trimmer Kevin Tomasiak and Groundman Jose Andrade Ayala

Cuadrilla del IBEW que trabaja para Family Tree. En la primera fila, de izquierda a derecha: Christian Stringham, Jornalero Podador de Árboles y Enrique Díaz, Aprendiz de Escalador. En la segunda fila: Sam Martinez, Capataz; Elliot Paeyeneers, Jornalero Podador de Árboles; Kevin Tomasiak, Jornalero Podador de Árboles y José Andrade Ayala, Operador de Tierra.

## IBEW 1245 Line Clearance Tree Trimmers top trees around 60kV power line

On a steep hillside outside of Ukiah in the Redwood Valley area, an IBEW 1245 crew from Family Tree was tasked with topping trees near a 60kV transmission line — ensuring that if any branches were to fall, they won't come into contact with the nearby high-voltage power line.

This type of work is nothing new for the skilled and trained crew of 1245 line clearance tree trimmers. But each and every job is unique, and Line Clearance Tree Trimmer Foreman Samuel Martinez explained what made this job distinct from the work his crew typically does.

"Today's different. We're working on the 60kV [lines]," said Martinez, a six-year member of IBEW 1245. "We're usually doing the 12kVs, the distribution lines. But we got some transmission today."

Martinez went on to explain that high-voltage transmission lines require a much broader clearance, meaning there needs to be twice as much space between the trees and the lines, as compared to lower-voltage distribution line clearance for a transmission line.

The Ukiah-based crew is extremely accustomed to working in densely wooded areas — but they also know that in this type of terrain, potential hazards are everywhere. When they arrive at each work location, they always take time to survey

the area and go through their safety protocols to make sure they're considering all the factors, from the terrain to the weather.

"Today we're working on a slope," Martinez explained. "It's pretty slick out here from the recent rain, but we manage to keep our safe footing, work up the hill, and just be as safe as we could."

Demonstrating their training, professionalism, endurance, and skill, the crew worked together to carefully and meticulously remove the limbs that were within the 30-foot clearance around the line, and then carry them down the steep embankment to the chipper. They're constantly looking out for one another



Foreman Sam Martinez

every step of the way — a characteristic you'll find on every IBEW crew.

"I like the union; I like the brotherhood," said Martinez, who never had a

union job before he started working for Family Tree six years ago. "There's a lot of benefits."

*Photos by John Storey*





# Trabajando en la ladera— Los podadores de árboles para el despeje de líneas del IBEW 1245 podan árboles alrededor de la línea eléctrica de 60kV

En una ladera empinada en las afueras de Ukiah, en la zona de Redwood Valley, se le asignó a una cuadrilla del IBEW 1245 de Family Tree la tarea de podar los árboles cerca de una línea de transmisión de 60kV, para garantizar que si se caía alguna rama, no entraría en contacto con la línea eléctrica de alto voltaje cercana.

Este tipo de trabajo no es nada nuevo para la cuadrilla cualificada y capacitada de podadores de árboles para el despeje de líneas del 1245. Pero todos y cada uno de los trabajos son únicos, y Samuel Martínez, Capataz de podadores de árboles para el despeje de líneas explicó por qué este trabajo fue distinto del trabajo que su cuadrilla suele hacer.

“Hoy es diferente. Estamos trabajando en las líneas de 60kV”, dijo Martínez, miembro del IBEW 1245 desde hace seis años. “Normalmente trabajamos en las

líneas de distribución de 12kV. Pero hoy tenemos unas líneas de transmisión”.

Martínez continuó explicando que las líneas de transmisión de alto voltaje requieren una separación mucho más amplia, lo que significa que el espacio entre los árboles y las líneas de transmisión debe ser el doble del espacio necesario entre los árboles y las líneas de distribución.

La cuadrilla de Ukiah está muy acostumbrada a trabajar en zonas densamente boscosas, pero también saben que en este tipo de terreno, hay peligros potenciales en todas partes. Cuando llegan a cada lugar de trabajo, siempre se toman el tiempo para inspeccionar el área y repasar sus protocolos de seguridad para asegurarse de que están tomando en cuenta todos los factores, desde el terreno hasta el clima.

“Hoy estamos trabajando en una lade-

ra”, explicó Martínez. “Las recientes lluvias hacen que el terreno esté bastante resbaloso, pero logramos mantener el equilibrio, trabajar subiendo la ladera, y mantenernos lo más seguros posible”.

Demostrando su capacitación, profesionalismo, resistencia y destreza, la cuadrilla trabajó en equipo para quitar cuidadosa y meticulosamente las ramas que estaban a una distancia de 30 pies o menos de la línea, y luego las lleva-

ron por la ladera hasta la astilladora. Se cuidan constantemente el uno al otro en cada paso del camino, una característica que está presente en cada cuadrilla del IBEW.

“Me gusta el sindicato; me gusta la hermandad”, dijo Martínez, quien nunca había trabajado bajo un sindicato antes de comenzar a trabajar para Family Tree hace seis años. “Hay muchos beneficios”.

*Fotos por John Storey*



Left to right: Journeyman Tree Trimmer Rudy Pulido, Journeyman Tree Trimmer Kevin Pomasiak, Apprentice Climber Richard Diskin, Apprentice Climber Lupe Hernandez (In Truck), Journeyman Tree Trimmer Elliot Paeyeneers, Apprentice Climber Andrew Raymond, Groundman Sebastian Sadler and Journeyman Tree Trimmer Orlando Sanchez



# Day of Action at the Capitol Showcases IBEW 1245 Utility Workers

IBEW 1245 spear-headed the first-of-its-kind Utility Workers Day of Action at the State Capitol in Sacramento on March 13, 2024.



The bedrock of California's growing economy is a highly sophisticated energy system that is built, operated and maintained by skilled and trained IBEW utility workers — ordinary women and men who do extraordinary work. Without IBEW 1245 members working around the clock to provide safe and reliable power and gas, California would, quite literally, be left in the cold and dark.

“Our members play a pivotal role in our state’s story of economic success — but more often than not, their hard work goes unseen. And few people realize they’re also emergency responders; the fire department can’t do its job until our members do theirs,” IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean said. “At best, utility workers are overlooked and taken for granted. At worst, they are harassed and even attacked just for doing their jobs. It’s time for our state to acknowledge, lift up, and recognize the contributions and sacrifices that our members make each and every day.”

Under Dean’s leadership, Local 1245 has developed a new public awareness campaign this year, aimed at cultivating more respect and appreciation for the skilled and trained IBEW 1245 members that power California.

To celebrate the launch of this campaign, Local 1245 spearheaded a large public demonstration and worker showcase at the State Capitol in Sacramento on March 13. This exciting, first-of-its-kind event presented a unique opportunity for hundreds of IBEW utility workers to meet with decision-makers and the public face-to-face and educate them on the difficult, hazardous and strenuous jobs they perform to keep the lights on and gas flowing.

The event was also intended as a call to action directed at the California Legislature, where IBEW 1245 has been pushing for legislators to establish an official Utility Workers Appreciation Day, as they’ve done for other emergency responders.



Dozens of legislators, legislative staffers and other officials came to the event, along with many members of the public. Attendees passed through a series of booths where 1245 members offered live safety demonstrations and tutorials. Hands-on exhibits presented the attendees with the opportunity to try on lineman’s gloves; touch and explore line clearance tree trimmer rigging; take the ‘lineman’s challenge’ by learning and then attempting some simple, standard work procedures; go for rides in a bucket truck; check out the inside of a padmount transformer; get up close with gas pipeline tools; and take a closer look at the rigors of the trade.

“We’re here to show that this isn’t just your basic kind of job that any sort of person can walk up and do,” said IBEW 1245 member Justin Henson, who attended the event to offer close-up demonstrations of the work he does as a PG&E distribution line technician. “It demands and requires a high-intensity level of training, through apprenticeship programs as well as the constant on-the-job-training to stay up on the growing technology of today.”



Business Manager Bob Dean



State Senator Nancy Skinner takes a ride up in the bucket truck.



IBEW International Vice President Dave Reaves



The Day of Action concluded with an energetic rally, featuring a series of stirring speeches from legislators, IBEW leadership, and utility company executives expressing their appreciation for the hard work and dedication that our members bring to their jobs.

“I know what it’s like to work, day in and day out, through storms ... having those long periods of time when you don’t get to go home, and you’re working in the worst weather, and all kinds of difficult terrain,” IBEW International Vice President Dave Reaves, who previously worked as a journeyman lineman in Alaska, told the crowd of 1245 members at the rally. “You all know your utility systems better than anybody; you know how to safely and efficiently restore power after

any climate or emergency event. It takes years of specialized training to work in our utility classifications ... You are truly the power and gas professionals in this trade. Thank you for all that you do.”

“You were the first ones out there during the crazy storm that we had last year and the year before. And you were out there during the crazy heat wave that we had, and the wildfires... I’ve been there when you guys are out restoring power when the wind is blowing 73 miles per hour,” SMUD CEO Paul Lau told the crowd. “You’re definitely the true heroes. And I cannot tell you thank you enough from the bottom of my heart.”

“We’re here to say thank you. Thank you for working around the clock and in hazardous conditions





to ensure that we all have access to safe and reliable energy. Thank you for this steadfast commitment that you demonstrate in your work. Thank you for risking your lives and for leaving your families, sometimes for days or weeks at a time, to help restore power to your neighbors,” echoed Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris. “We cannot keep California working without you. You have one of the toughest jobs out there and you are deserving of our recognition and our appreciation today, tomorrow, and each and every day.”

Petrie-Norris, who currently serves as the chair of the Assembly Energy and Utilities Committee, also

announced at the rally that she would be introducing a legislative resolution on the floor of the Assembly the very next day to establish March 14 as the official Utility Workers Appreciation Day in California.

The following day, dozens of IBEW 1245 members returned to the Capitol to show their support for the Utility Workers Appreciation Day resolution (ACR 153), which passed unanimously (see box below for more).

“We want to thank the members of the Assembly for passing this resolution with the understanding that these workers aren’t just essential; they’re exceptional,” said Dean. “This work is incredibly demanding, and

requires an exceptional level of skill, training, dedication, and attention to detail. It’s physically and mentally challenging, extremely specialized, and incredibly complex, and we will continue to work on behalf of our members to ensure they get the respect and recognition they deserve.”

View the KCRA news coverage of the event: <https://bit.ly/3Uq1zs7>

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director

Photos by John Storey

## California Assembly Votes to Establish Utility Workers Appreciation Day

**O**n March 14, the members of the California State Assembly voted to pass ACR 153, establishing the state’s official Utility Workers Appreciation Day.

The passage of this measure represents a monumental moment for IBEW 1245 as the primary advocate of ACR 153.

Dozens of 1245 members filled the Assembly chambers to express support for the resolution, which was introduced by Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee Chair Cottie Petrie-Norris. IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean was recognized on the Assembly floor for his advocacy on behalf of tens of thousands of IBEW utility workers, and the Assembly members rose to their feet to commend the hard-working IBEW members who power California before voting unanimously in favor of ACR 153.

The resolution reads:

*WHEREAS, The State of California recognizes the invaluable contributions of utility workers to the well-being and safety of its residents; and*

*WHEREAS, Utility workers tirelessly dedicate themselves to providing essential services, including electricity, gas, and water, ensuring that Californians have access to vital resources for daily living, business operations, and emergency response; and*

*WHEREAS, Utility workers exhibit exceptional bravery, resilience, and dedication, often working in hazardous conditions, adverse weather, and during emergencies such as wildfires, storms, and earthquakes, to restore services promptly and safeguard public health and safety; and*

*WHEREAS, Utility workers valiantly risk their lives amidst tumultuous conditions, including hurricane-force storms and active wildfire zones, in their unwavering commitment to restoring services to communities in need; and*

*WHEREAS, Utility lineworkers consistently hold positions among the top three most hazardous professions, bearing a national on-the-job fatality rate of 42 deaths per 100,000 workers annually; and*

*WHEREAS, Utility workers frequently encounter workplace harassment and violence perpetrated by*

*disgruntled property owners, a phenomenon that is well-documented in numerous reports and studies; and*

*WHEREAS, Utility workers demonstrate unwavering commitment to serving their communities, often sacrificing personal comfort and time with their families to ensure the continuous functioning of critical infrastructure and the uninterrupted delivery of essential services; and*

*WHEREAS, Utility workers play an indispensable role in supporting California’s transition to sustainable energy sources, implementing innovative technologies, and enhancing the resilience of infrastructure to address the challenges of climate change and ensure a sustainable future for all residents; and*

*WHEREAS, Utility workers undertake the arduous task of maintaining and repairing electricity, gas, and water lines, thereby ensuring the safe and reliable distribution of electricity, natural gas, and water to homes, businesses, hospitals, schools, and other essential facilities throughout the state; and*

*WHEREAS, Utility workers routinely inspect, repair, and upgrade electrical, gas, and water infrastructure, identifying and mitigating potential hazards to prevent service disruptions, accidents, and environmental harm, thereby safeguarding the well-being and security of Californians; now, therefore, be it*

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates March 14 as California Utility Workers Appreciation Day to be observed annually as a day*



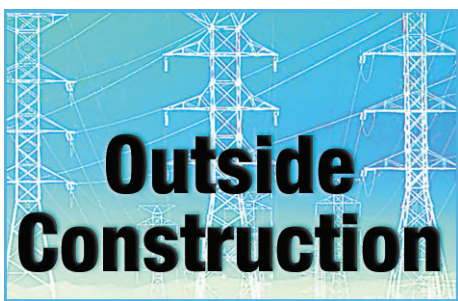
*for residents, businesses, and communities to express their gratitude and support for utility workers, recognizing their vital contributions and commitment to the well-being of the state; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution*



Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris introduced the Utility Workers Appreciation Day Resolution.





## California

After a very busy and productive 2023, work slowed down substantially at the start of 2024. In addition to the wet winter, a change in work plans has reduced undergrounding compared to what we saw last year, and this shift proved to be a challenge to our members. However, with the reduction in undergrounding, we will soon see an uptick in the overhead fire-hardening work compared to last year. Contractors are understanding the footprint they will be working in for the year, and overhead fire-hardening work has been awarded across the jurisdiction. Additionally, the latest program addressing maintenance work also needs to be completed.

At the IBEW 1245 *Grid of The Future* conference earlier this year, a great deal of emphasis was placed upon the challenge of meeting the growing demand for renewable energy while simultaneously maintaining grid reliability. With the current and future EV mandates, the need to expand our current infrastructure has never been more critical, and it is necessary to build and improve the regional transmission grid. Expansion of the current grid will create both transmission and distribution jobs well into the future. With new jobs created by evolving technologies, the need for continued training is paramount.

IBEW Business Representatives from the Outside line locals attended the first National Lineman College Career Day of the calendar year. This gave us the opportunity to educate over 275 graduating students with information regarding the benefits of IBEW union membership. We spoke with NLC students to about JATC apprenticeship opportunities; the process of signing the books at IBEW; the benefits of union-backed labor; and other information that will help pave the way to a successful career with the IBEW.

The Fresno bi-monthly informational meetings continue to take place on the second Tuesday of every other month from 6pm to 8pm at Round Table Pizza at 5702 N. First St. The remaining meetings for this year will take place on May 14, July 9, Sept 10, and Nov 12. A mass text reminder will be sent out before each meeting. Please make time to attend the meeting if you're in the area.

## Nevada

Overall the work scope in Nevada is promising. Wasatch on NV Energy property continues to support Northern Nevada jurisdiction by supplying dock

crews and supplemental linemen to support NVE crews in the Carson City, Reno, Fallon, Winnemucca, and Yerington yards. Transmission work in Silver Springs has concluded and those crews will be headed to Heybourne 113 line in the Carson City area. There are currently five sub techs that are supplementing NVE substation department as well. OMAG repairs and NDPP inspections are complete as of this quarter.

Wasatch on Liberty property continues to support Liberty Utilities in both North and South Lake Tahoe areas with dock crews and supplemental linemen.

Mountain Engineering finished up a 230KV rebuild on NVE property in the Yerington district. Mountain Engineering



Senior Assistant Business Manager Ralph Armstrong

continues to gain work on NVE property with two different projects awarded to them. One of the projects is to rebuild Virginia City and the Lake Tahoe distribution infrastructure.

Summit Line Construction crews are currently finishing up a transmission project in Silver Springs area, and Summit Line was

awarded all of the T-Line work on the Greenlink project. The Greenlink project will start in the Las Vegas area and work north.

As of this writing, the Substation portion of the Greenlink project has not been awarded yet. There are numerous distribution projects on NVE property that are also out for bid and will be awarded this quarter. Among them will be the OMAG work which includes all of the repair work for the NDPP inspections that have been completed on NVE property. There are also some 4KV conversions that are included in the bids.

The Idaho PUC approval is the last outstanding item before the SWIP-North project can move forward. Contractors have been approached for the General Contractor position. Subcontractors have reached out to the Local to become signatory in hopes of getting part of this work.

## Safety First

The first Red Book quarterly safety meeting of the year covered a wide range of industry issues. Motor vehicle incidents (MVI) were the most common occurrence, as usual. With the continued weather that our jurisdiction has experienced, we must stay vigilant and prepared for the unexpected issues we face on the road, mainly with other drivers. Additionally, the use of cell phones has been a factor in several of the incidents discussed. **Please do not use your phone while driving.**

The Red Book subcommittee has reviewed the proposed changes to the Red Book. There will be at least one more meeting before the proposed changes will be voted on by the full committee. 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 — name-

ly around grounding of the covered tree wire, as there are differences of opinion from utility to utility on how this needs to be performed to ensure compliance with OSHA standards. More to come.

## Know the Rules

It's important for all 1245 members as well as travelers to this Local to educate themselves on the rules and requirements of the IBEW Constitution, as well as Local agreements and safety rules for the areas you may be working in. Failure to understand these requirements could lead to charges filed for violations of these rules under Article XXV, Misconduct, Offenses and Penalties of the IBEW Constitution.

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 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 at the forefront. Keep this in mind whenever you have an apprentice working with you.

## Examining Committee

The 1245 Examining Committee has changed their meeting date to the first Tuesday of every month starting at 5pm at the 1245 Hall in Vacaville. The 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. Everyone needs to stay focused on safety and quality; there is no room in this industry to work unsafely or perform substandard work that can potentially lead to a safety issue.

## Community Outreach

We have been getting more involved in community outreach events such as school career days, climbing school visits, and 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 have returned to the dispatch office now that the remodel project is near completion. The improved 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, members will be prompted to fill out a half-sheet of paper that includes name, email address and phone number. Please write clearly, as that is the only way to get your application to you. Information that is incorrect or illegible will delay the process. When uploading 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 dispatch numbers:

- 64 Apprentice Lineman calls
- 202 Groundman calls
- 24 Flagger calls
- 81 Line EQ Man calls
- 29 Fab Tech calls
- 7 Cable Splicer calls
- 77 Sub Tech calls
- 398 Journeyman Lineman calls

Total year-to-date calls for 2024 = 908

We currently have 447 on the Lineman book 1 and 2, and 1,526 on the Groundman books.

## LaborPower Mobile App

IBEW Local 1245's LaborPower app allows members to check their position on the books, update contact info, pay dues, and more. You can find it in the app store of your mobile device.

## Cal-Nev JATC

### Apprentice report as of March 5, 2024:

- 606 outside line apprentices registered in the Cal/Nev JATC program
- 0 traveling apprentices in Cal/Nev's jurisdiction
- 186 apprentices working out of Local 1245
- 245 working out of Local 47
- 36 working out of Local 396
- 101 unemployed
- 18 suspended, 14 on medical hold and 6 on a leave
- 12 apprentices graduated to Journeyman Lineman in 2023
- 0 new apprentices indentured in Outside Line in 2023

The Cal/Nev JATC typically opens up the lineman apprenticeship application process each spring, but with work being slow and 101 apprentices not working, the next application window will be postponed. If you're considering applying, please review the Cal-Nev JATC requirements for applying at [www.calnev-jatc.org](http://www.calnev-jatc.org).

## CPR & First Aid

CPR and First Aid classes are scheduled for the second Friday of every month at the Woodland and Riverside facilities. If you are interested and want to sign up for this class, visit [www.calnev-jatc.org](http://www.calnev-jatc.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-served basis.

## Injured Workers Fund

The balance of the injured workers fund as of March 31, 2024 was \$966,853.84. In the three months prior, the fund paid out \$313,000.00 in disability payments. The Summary Plan Description (SPD) and Application can be found on the union's website at <https://ibew1245.com/outside-line-injured-workers-fund/>

## New Organizing

The following contractors have organized with 1245 this quarter:

### California Outside Line Construction Agreement

- 1884 Line Co.
- Allteck USA LLC
- Bragg Investment Company
- Cooper Energy Services, Inc.
- Hi-Power Energy, LLC
- B. Abel, Inc.
- Intren West, LLC

### Construction Coordinator & Inspector Agreement

- Pro-tech Power Group Inc.



Foreman Kevin Rust, (right), and Lineman Justin McElroy



Lineman Andy Dodd



Foreman Kevin Rust



Lineman Justin McElroy



Lineman Matt Hawkins

# Significant Improvements to the National Electrical Benefit Fund (NEBF)

2400 Research Boulevard  
Suite 500  
Rockville, MD 20850-3266



**NEBF**   
National Electrical Benefit Fund

[www.nebf.com](http://www.nebf.com)

Dear NECA Contractors and IBEW Brothers and Sisters,

We are excited to announce significant improvements to the National Electrical Benefit Fund (NEBF) that will directly benefit our respective members across the country. After careful consideration and analysis, the NEBF Trustees and the National Employees Benefit Board (NEBB) would like to announce the following for the NEBF:

- **"Fresh Start" Amendment:** The NEBF's actuary has certified that the NEBF currently has no "unfunded vested benefits" (UVB) and therefore no withdrawal liability as of December 31, 2023, and that it is not projected to have any future UVBs. In addition, the NEBF has approved an amendment to "fresh start" UVBs effective December 31, 2023, to ensure that no withdrawal liability will exist for any contributing employer in 2024 and that no withdrawal liability is projected as a result of the benefit improvements described herein.
- **One-Dollar Multiplier Increase:** The pension benefit multiplier will increase from \$32.00 to \$33.00 per month for participants who retire effective January 1, 2025, or later. This will serve to provide a better benefit to attract and retain a workforce to build the future.
- **One-Time 13<sup>th</sup> Check:** Recognizing their valuable contributions to the electrical construction industry, retirees with effective dates prior to January 1, 2025, will receive a one-time bonus payment on or around November 1, 2025, subject to a favorable actuarial opinion showing no withdrawal liability exists, and this action will not create any future withdrawal liability.
- **National Electrical Individual Benefit (NEIB):** A new, optional benefit feature has been approved that, if adopted by local bargaining parties, would provide participants with an additional monthly retirement benefit and more personal planning opportunities. This benefit feature will be funded by employer contributions of at least \$0.50 per hour worked and provide participants with an additional monthly benefit equal to 1.5% of the contributions made on their behalf. The fund's actuary projects that the NEIB will further improve the NEBF's funded status over time. Optional, verbatim language will be made available in the near future for any area choosing to participate.
- **NEBF Contribution Rate:** The "core" contribution rate will remain unchanged at 3% of gross labor payroll. As such, unless the local bargaining parties agree and adopt the optional NEIB, there will be no additional cost to contributing employers.

These advancements are a testament to the enduring partnership between NECA and IBEW. Through open communication, shared goals, and a commitment to our respective members' well-being, we have worked together to achieve these significant improvements to the NEBF. This collaboration ensures a brighter financial future for electrical workers and retirees, and demonstrates our collective strength and dedication to the industry.

We are confident these enhancements will solidify the NEBF as a leader in retirement benefits for the electrical industry. We remain committed to transparency and open communication, and we will keep you informed as these changes move forward.

Thank you for your support and dedication to the electrical construction industry.

Sincerely,

The Trustees of the National Electrical Benefit Fund and  
the National Employees Benefit Board

# IBEW 1245 Outside Line Crew Works to Restore Power After Storm

When a late winter storm walloped northern California, an IBEW 1245 outside line crew from Henkels & McCoy was called in to assist with power restoration in hard-hit Humboldt County.

The *Utility Reporter* caught up with the crew in a remote area outside Garberville on their fifth day of storm work. Twelve-year IBEW 1245 member and Journeyman Lineman Kevin Rust explained the job that his crew was currently working on.

"We have a single-phase line. We have one wire down. It's a 715-foot

span," said Rust, the crew's foreman. "We just cleared everything from the uphill side of the road, made sure the wire was going to go up, added about 50 feet to cut out a bunch of existing sleeves, and now we are dead-ended."

Rust noted that, before they could put the line back up and restore power to the impacted community, a cross-arm would have to be straightened out. And thanks to his knowledge and expertise, he also observed that additional work would be required on this line for long-term reliability.

"We'll be writing up a tag for an

abundance of sleeves in this span for a future change-out," he said.

Rust and his crew are accustomed to working in all sorts of conditions — but the ongoing storm, coupled with the exceptionally rugged terrain, made this job more challenging than usual.

In true IBEW fashion, Rust and his dedicated crew worked meticulously to resolve the outage as quickly as possible, while ensuring their safety as well as the safety of those around them — no easy feat in this heavily wooded area.

"Access is our number one issue up

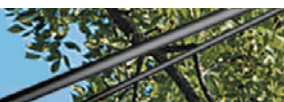
here," Rust said. "Obviously there's the snow, but once it starts melting — plus all this rain that we're getting today — everything just turns to mud."

"I tried to go patrol line yesterday but ended up [turning around]," he added, noting that the conditions and terrain warranted a different vehicle. "I had to get a side-by-side [off-road vehicle]. I don't want to get a bucket truck stuck."

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245  
Communications Director

Photos by John Storey





Over the first quarter of 2024, we have witnessed the resiliency of the **Line Clearance Tree Trimmer (LCTT), Vegetation Management and Pole Test & Treat Membership**, after all three workgroups endured additional layoffs at the end of last year. These unforeseen changes have provided valuable lessons. Though we cannot predict future events, we can be more vigilant in planning and preparing for any future work-related stoppages. Knowing the contracts, including state and federal resources, can help reduce the amount of stress during difficult transitional times. The 1245 staff commends our LCTT members for the hard work and dedication that we witness every day as we meet with all of you in the field and at unit meetings. You are truly a workforce that is second to none.

The IBEW pride in the electrical and tree industry was on full display on March 13, 2024, when 1245 staff and members alike showed up at the state capitol for a **Day of Action** to recognize utility workers as first responders (see full story on pg 20 - 21). It was a unique experience, mingling with local and state political leaders and explaining to them IBEW's core values in training, safety and why having a qualified workforce is necessary to build and maintain a reliable electrical grid. The state of California now recognizes March 14 as Utility Workers Day, thanks to all who were involved in making this a reality.

Local 1245 North Area **Business Representative Ray Banfill** was recently recognized with 40 years of service with the IBEW. He is a trade professional that loves his family and the members he serves. Thank you, Brother Ray Banfill for your leadership and service.

The Local 1245 **Annual Soccer Tournament** is in the final planning phase, and will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024 beginning at 8am at 1201 River Rd in Ripon (Mistlin Sports Complex). This year, we have 16 teams — totaling 200+ members — registered for the soccer tournament. They represent 10 different LCTT contractor teams, one manufacturing team, and one JATC team. Other activities planned for the day include kids' soccer, pinatas, a chili cook off and dessert contest. This is a free event and is estimated to be the biggest tournament to date.

The **Line Clearance Tree Trimming** work outlook has gradually ramped back up with reports of increasing overtime in some areas. Line Clearance is experiencing challenges with new but fewer contractors taking over new territory as they continue to fill manpower needs. We are becoming a mobile transitional workforce and working 15 minutes from the house is no longer a reality for many. However, the wages, benefits and working conditions are the best they've ever been historically. One can expect to work with better tools, higher safety standards, and retire with dignity from

a great career. We are still experiencing routine grievance activity and are finding solutions to EPR reporting for member benefits. We continue to hold monthly unit meetings to discuss current union business and encourage all to participate and volunteer in leadership roles.

**Safety** continues to be our top priority as we focus on expanding our safety culture through the Keep the Clearance (K.T.C.) peer-to-peer program. We've recruited more safety stewards and are conducting safety pitches with contractors regularly. Vehicle incidents continue to plague the workforce as distracted driving has become more prevalent. The utility and contractors are taking a proactive approach to find better safety protocols and guidelines, such as onboard dash cams and in-house safe driving programs for employees. We all have the courage to say something when we see or hear something that is not right, and we must all take ownership of safety so that everyone goes home at the end of the day.

PG&E is continuing to perform **assessments in Oroville** of all workers performing Line Clearance Tree Trimming work on property, and the Cal/Nev JATC is offering classes on Fridays and Saturdays at the Woodland Training Center in preparation for assessments. The JATC is not teaching the assessments, but instructors are providing refresher training on basic skills to anyone who wants to take the time to attend. Remember, participants must be enrolled with the JATC to have access to training benefits, including grant funds from the State of California for members who have completed a Class A or B CDL certification course. Qualifying member participants can now be reimbursed directly by the JATC with proof of course completion and receipt. More informational updates are posted on the JATC website.

**Asplundh Tree Unit Members working on NV Energy** property in Reno, NV are preparing for upcoming negotiations. The contract expires in June of 2024, and an opening letter for contract negotiations has been sent as we look at bargaining dates for the month of May. We are seeing a steady increase in membership with the demand for tree clearance in this area.

**Pole Test and Treat** work has been inconsistent this quarter, with members transitioning between Osmose and Davey Tree Service in routine and delineation work on PG&E property. We continue to work with members affected during these up and down periods as we hope to see a stabilization of this work come back locally.

**Vegetation Management Inspections** were also impacted by recent layoffs, however the forecast ahead is looking brighter as demand for more of this specialty work is on the rise. There are new contractors performing this work on PG&E property, which has presented many challenges for members

as transitions have been anything but smooth. We are working on solutions for manpower and working conditions for both the contracts that have benefits and those with in-lieu-of benefits. Please read the contracts and notify your Business Rep when issues arise immediately to identify problems and concerns in a timely manner. A new Vegetation Management Inspector contractor, Eocene Environmental Group of the West, Inc., has organized with IBEW 1245 this quarter.

— *Mark MauMau, IBEW 1245 Assistant Business Manager*

## Northern Area

This first quarter of 2024 has been steady with line clearance work ramping back up following recent layoffs. There have been changes in both the LCTT and the tree pre-inspections side of the industry.

On the LCTT side, Sonoma County has been taken over by Anvil as a prime with PG&E. They have gradually brought members back to work that were laid off late last year and have also hired new employees. They are increasing the number of employees based on the amount of work issued by PG&E. With the recent changes there have been many challenges, however we've been fortunate to work with the new contractors to find solutions. After being awarded the Lake County area, Anvil has recently vacated due to lack of manpower resources, and the area has been taken over by AERI. This has been challenging for the members since there have been multiple different companies these last two years. After meeting with AERI, the hope is that they will maintain a more permanent presence in the Lake County area.

The North Valley area has seen massive changes. Maximus Trees was struggling to maintain the area that they were awarded in 2023, and so the area was divided in half, allowing for Wright Tree Service (the previous on-site contractor) to return. Many of the Maximus employees went back to work for Wright Tree Service, and recently Maximus has vacated the area altogether. Members have acknowledged some relief as Wright Tree Service had been a stable contractor in the upper North Valley area for so long. There is a sense of normalcy amongst the local membership that has experienced unforeseen changes this past year. The lower North Valley area is still maintained by Mountain Enterprises, and work has ramped back up once again after recent layoffs.

We've witnessed some drastic changes these past two years with inconsistent work due to budgetary changes in the final quarters. Though PG&E controls the work outlook, we are in continuous communication with utility and upper union management to mitigate work stoppages. If we've learned anything, it is that the Tree Industry is changing, and we need to be prepared.

The pre-inspection side of the industry has also seen its share of changes. Humboldt and Lake County have switched

to Coastal Resource Group. Sonoma, and upper North Valley have switched to Sierra Forestry Consulting. This has caused concerns with members working who were working under a contract with in-lieu-of benefits and are now switching to a contract that has benefits. We have been fielding calls to bring more clarity with the process of getting benefits started.

Unit meetings have been low in attendance this quarter; however, we expect attendance to increase now that the work outlook is slowly getting back into a steady rhythm. All outstanding grievances have been settled at this time. Many issues are being resolved with a phone call, as this minimizes the steps of the process and timelines for grievances.

Now that all areas are stabilized with steady work, we are expecting a very busy second quarter as contractors are under strict timelines to complete assigned circuits.

— *Ray Banfill, IBEW 1245 Business Rep*

## Central East Area

The end of the first quarter is here and before you know it, the end of 2024 will be upon us. From cold winter storms, to blistering heat, to long tedious hours, to difficult terrain, to the constant change of employers, and challenging work conditions ... not even a pandemic could stop what has become the most prolific workforce ever. What seems like the inevitable has not slowed down the mighty IBEW 1245 workforce.

Across all territories in vegetation management, we are seeing similar challenges throughout the 1245 jurisdiction. What once was steady work has become seasonal work. Our message to our members is clear — hope for the best but prepare for the worst. The beginning of the year was tough, with some members returning to work, while others did not. Many skilled and experienced veterans on the LCTT side were lost to other trades. Layoffs this last year had a negative impact on so many experienced veteran tree workers and their families. The continual musical chairs between contractors jumping from one territory to another has created a sense of instability.

It seems like as soon as members have settled in with a new contractor and have learned the new system, a different company comes in out of nowhere and takes over, and now, they must learn a brand-new system all over again. Even with all these challenges, our members persevered, and will continue to do so no matter the situation.

Both Tree Trimmers and VMIs have experienced many changes. New companies and new management means starting over for members in some cases, however they are gaining some traction and are moving in the right direction. Although adversities are inescapable, the amazing members of IBEW 1245 still find a way to keep moving forward.

Over on the other side of the Sierras, Asplundh Tree members in Reno, NV are eager and excited for what's ahead.



We are getting close to negotiations, and this is an exciting time because it is an opportunity to make changes in the right direction, ultimately improving the industry for those members. Unit meetings in Reno have been well-attended as we've welcomed more newly signed members to the IBEW than ever before. As we prepare for what's ahead, members have been presenting proposals for these upcoming negotiations. Right now, our focus is to build a better tomorrow today!

— Francisco Ferreyra, IBEW 1245  
Business Rep

## Central West Area

Grievance activity picked up across the Central West area in Line Clearance Tree Trimming, Vegetation Control, Vegetation Management Inspections, and Pole Test & Treat this quarter. Most of the grievances are contract violations due to improper layoffs, unjust terminations, and vehicular accidents that have been on the rise. We continue working to resolve all open grievances, and we are holding Labor-Management meetings throughout the system on a regular basis via Teams or in-person.

LCTT work started off really slow at the

beginning of the year, as several changes were taking place at PG&E. Most LCTT contractors are continuing to ramp up and hire at the present time, while VMIs are seeing the biggest changes with new contractors performing work throughout the system. It has been a difficult time for those who have not experienced such drastic changes within this workgroup, but we are working hard to find work for displaced members.

LCTT subcontractors have also been ramping up as well in supporting primes in all areas of PG&E property. We expect this trend to continue with utility targets that are on scheduled timelines per the vegetation management forecast. Most contractors have an interest in securing experienced, qualified personnel as mandated by the industry. The current environment at PG&E is to build a safer and more productive workforce.

Pole Test & Treat has been met with inconsistent work, making it difficult to stay busy. Many of our members drive considerably longer distances now, and we believe this will be the norm with the recent budget trends and contractor movement.

— Junior Ornelas, IBEW 1245  
Business Rep

el 13 de marzo de 2024, cuando el personal y miembros del 1245 se presentaron en el capitolio del estado para un **Día de Acción**, donde se les hizo un reconocimiento a los trabajadores de servicios públicos en su papel de primeros intervinientes. Fue una experiencia única. Compartimos con líderes políticos locales y estatales y les explicamos los valores fundamentales del IBEW en cuanto a capacitación, seguridad y por qué es necesario contar con una fuerza de trabajo calificada para construir y mantener una red eléctrica confiable. El estado de California ahora reconoce el 14 de marzo como el Día de los Trabajadores de Servicios Público; gracias a todos los que estuvieron involucrados en hacer esto una realidad.

**Ray Banfill, Representante Comercial** del 1245, zona Norte, recibió recientemente un reconocimiento por 40 años de servicio con el IBEW. Es un profesional del gremio que ama a su familia y a los miembros que representa. Gracias, hermano Ray Banfill por tu liderazgo y servicio.

El **Torneo Anual de Fútbol Local 1245** se encuentra en la fase final de planificación, y se llevará a cabo el sábado 11 de mayo de 2024 a partir de las 8 a.m. en 1201 River Rd en Ripon (Complejo Deportivo Mistlin). Este año, tenemos 16 equipos (con un total de más de 200 miembros) registrados para el torneo de fútbol. Representan 10 equipos de contratistas de LCTT diferentes, un equipo de una empresa manufacturera y un equipo de JATC. Hay otras actividades planeadas para ese día, como fútbol infantil, una competencia de preparación de chiles y una competencia de postres. Este es un evento gratuito y se estima que es el torneo más grande hasta la fecha. Los invitamos a acompañarnos para celebrar un gran día de amistad, unidad y solidaridad.

El panorama de trabajo de poda de árboles para el despeje de líneas ha au-

mentado gradualmente y hemos recibido informes de más horas extras en algunas zonas. El despeje de líneas está teniendo desafíos presentados por nuevos contratistas, aunque en menor cantidad, asignados a nuevos territorios, a medida que cubren las necesidades de mano de obra. Nos estamos convirtiendo en una fuerza laboral móvil de transición y trabajar a 15 minutos de la casa ya no es una realidad. Sin embargo, los salarios, los beneficios y las condiciones laborales son los mejores históricamente. Uno puede esperar trabajar con mejores herramientas, estándares de seguridad más altos, y jubilarse con dignidad de una gran carrera. Todavía tenemos actividades rutinarias de quejas y estamos encontrando soluciones a los informes EPR sobre los beneficios de los miembros. Continuamos celebrando reuniones mensuales de unidades para discutir los negocios sindicales actuales y alentar a todos a participar y ser voluntarios en roles de liderazgo.

La **seguridad** continúa siendo nuestra principal prioridad mientras nos enfocamos en expandir nuestra cultura de seguridad a través del programa "Mantenga la Distancia" (K.T.C.) entre compañeros. Hemos reclutado a más delegados de seguridad y estamos realizando charlas de seguridad con contratistas regularmente. Los incidentes de vehículos continúan afectando a la fuerza laboral, y los incidentes producidos por conductores distraídos se han vuelto más frecuentes. La empresa de servicios públicos y los contratistas están adoptando un enfoque proactivo para encontrar mejores protocolos y directrices de seguridad, como cámaras en los tableros de los vehículos y programas internos de conducción segura para los empleados. Todos tenemos el valor de decir algo cuando vemos o escuchamos algo que no está bien, y todos debemos asumir la responsabilidad de la seguridad para que

*continued on next page*

## Manejo de la Vegetación

**D**urante el primer trimestre de 2024, hemos sido testigos de la resiliencia de los miembros **Podadores de árboles para el despeje de líneas (LCTT), de Gestión de la vegetación y Pole Test & Treat**, después de que los tres grupos de trabajo sufrieran despidos adicionales a finales del año pasado. Estos cambios imprevistos han brindado valiosas lecciones. Aunque no podemos predecir eventos futuros, podemos estar más atentos a la hora de planificar y preparar cualquier paro de

trabajo futuro. Conocer los contratos, incluidos los recursos estatales y federales, puede ayudar a reducir el estrés durante tiempos difíciles de transición. El personal del 1245 felicita a todos por el arduo trabajo y dedicación que presenciemos todos los días cuando nos reunimos con todos ustedes en el campo y en las reuniones de las unidades. Son realmente una fuerza de trabajo inigualable.

El orgullo de IBEW en la industria eléctrica y la industria de mantenimiento de árboles se exhibió en su totalidad

## IBEW 1245 Soccer Tournament Captains Meet To Prepare for This Year's Record-Setting Event

**I**n anticipation of IBEW 1245's annual Soccer Tournament and Family Day on May 11, 2024, 13 team captains met at the union hall with their Business Reps to plan and prepare for the upcoming event.

The Tournament is both an exercise in

leadership development and a celebration of the IBEW 1245 brotherhood and sisterhood. The team captains play a vital leadership role in the tournament, helping to recruit players and promote the spirit of the day.

Sixteen teams from nine line clearance

tree trimming companies, one manufacturing company, and the Cal-Nev JATC will take to the fields at Mistlin Park in Ripon on Saturday, May 11, 2024, and all are welcome to come watch and cheer them on. There will be games and piñatas for the children, along with a raffle, bake-off, and other fun activities. Additionally, the mothers will be celebrated with flowers to mark Mothers' Day.

One of IBEW 1245's most popular events, this year's tournament promises to be the largest ever!

— Eileen Purcell, IBEW 1245 Sr. Advisor to Business Manager

**A** la expectativa del Torneo Anual de Fútbol y Día de la Familia del IBEW 1245 que se llevarán a cabo el 11 de mayo de 2024, 13 capitanes de equipo se reunieron en la sede sindical con sus Representantes de Negocios para planificar el evento.

El Torneo es tanto un ejercicio de

desarrollo de liderazgo como una celebración de la hermandad que existe en el IBEW 1245. Los capitanes de equipo juegan un papel vital de liderazgo en el torneo, ayudando a reclutar jugadores y promover el espíritu del día.

Dieciséis equipos de nueve compañías de poda de árboles para el despeje de líneas, una empresa manufacturera y el JATC de Cal-Nev se enfrentarán en los campos del Parque Mistlin en Ripon el sábado 11 de mayo de 2024, y los invitamos a todos a verlos y animarlos. Habrá juegos y piñatas para los niños, además de una rifa, una competencia de pasteles y otras actividades divertidas. Además, festejaremos a las madres con flores para conmemorar el Día de las Madres.

Este es uno de los eventos más populares de IBEW 1245, y el torneo de este año promete ser el más grande de todos los tiempos!

— Eileen Purcell, IBEW 1245 Asesora de Gerente de Negocios



The 2024 IBEW 1245 Soccer Tournament team captains met at the union hall to prepare for this year's exciting event. Photos and highlights from the tournament will appear in the next edition of *Utility Reporter*.



al final del día.

PG&E continúa realizando **evaluaciones en Oroville** de todos los trabajadores que realizan trabajos de poda de árboles para el despeje de líneas en las instalaciones, y el JATC de Cal/Nev está ofreciendo clases los viernes y sábados en el Centro de Capacitación Woodland para preparación para las evaluaciones. El JATC no está enseñando cómo son las evaluaciones, si no que los instructores están proporcionando capacitación de actualización en habilidades básicas a cualquiera que quiera tomarse el tiempo para asistir. Recuerden, los participantes deben estar inscritos en el JATC para tener acceso a beneficios de capacitación, incluidos los fondos de subvenciones del Estado de California para miembros que hayan completado un curso de certificación de CDL Clase "A o B". Los miembros participantes que cumplan los requisitos podrán recibir un reembolso del JATC al presentar un recibo y una prueba de que han finalizado el curso. El sitio web de JATC tiene más información actualizada.

Los **miembros de la Unidad de Asplundh Tree que trabajan en las instalaciones de NV Energy** en Reno, NV se están preparando para las próximas negociaciones. El contrato vence en junio de 2024, y se ha enviado una carta de apertura para las negociaciones del contrato mientras decidimos las fechas de negociación para el mes de mayo. Estamos observando un aumento constante del número de miembros debido al incremento en la demanda de tala de árboles en esta zona.

El trabajo de **Pole Test and Treat** no ha sido constante este trimestre, y tenemos miembros que hacen la transición entre Osmose y Davey Tree Service en el trabajo de rutina y delineación en las instalaciones de PG&E. Continuamos trabajando con los miembros afectados durante estos períodos de inestabilidad laboral, y esperamos que regrese la estabilidad de este trabajo a nivel local.

Las inspecciones de **Manejo de Vegetación** también se vieron afectadas por despidos recientes, sin embargo, el pronóstico futuro parece más brillante a medida que la demanda de este trabajo especializado aumenta. Hay nuevos contratistas que están ejecutando este trabajo en las instalaciones de PG&E, lo que ha planteado muchos desafíos para los miembros, ya que las transiciones no han sido fluidas. Estamos trabajando en soluciones para la mano de obra y las condiciones laborales tanto para los contratos que tienen beneficios como para aquellos con otras opciones distintas a las prestaciones. Por favor, lean los contratos y notifiquen inmediatamente a su representante comercial cuando surja cualquier asunto para poder identificar problemas y preocupaciones de manera oportuna. Un nuevo contratista de Inspectores de Gestión de Vegetación, Eocene Environmental Group of the West, Inc., se ha registrado con IBEW 1245 este trimestre.

— *Mark MauMau, Gerente Asistente de Negocios de IBEW 1245*

## Zona norte

Este primer trimestre de 2024 ha sido constante, el trabajo de despeje de líneas ha ido aumentando después de los despidos recientes. Se han producido cambios en lo que respecta a la industria de LCTT y a las preinspecciones de árboles.

Por el lado de LCTT, Anvil es el principal contratista de PG&E en el condado de Sonoma. Han traído gradualmente de nuevo al trabajo a miembros que habían sido despedidos a finales del año pasado y también han contratado nuevos empleados. Están aumentando el número de empleados en función de la cantidad de trabajo que reciben de PG&E. Han surgido muchos desafíos como resultado de los recientes cambios, sin embargo, hemos tenido la suerte de colaborar con los nuevos contratistas para encontrar soluciones. Por falta de recursos humanos, Anvil tuvo que ceder el área del condado de Lake que le había sido otorgada, la cual ha sido tomada por AERI. Esto ha sido un desafío para los miembros, ya que en los dos últimos años ha habido múltiples compañías distintas. Después de habernos reunido con AERI, tenemos la esperanza de que mantengan una presencia más permanente en el área del condado de Lake.

La zona de North Valley ha tenido cambios drásticos. Maximus Trees tenía dificultades para mantener el área que le fue otorgada en 2023, por lo que el área se dividió por la mitad, lo que permitió que Wright Tree Service (el contratista anterior) regresara. Muchos de los empleados de Maximus volvieron a trabajar para Wright Tree Service, y recientemente Maximus ha abandonado el área por completo. Los miembros han reconocido que sienten alivio ya que Wright Tree Service había sido un contratista estable en la zona alta de North Valley durante mucho tiempo. Se siente un ambiente de normalidad entre los miembros locales que han experimentado cambios imprevistos este último año. La parte baja de North Valley sigue estando bajo la responsabilidad de Mountain Enterprises, y el trabajo ha vuelto a aumentar una vez más después de los recientes despidos.

Hemos sido testigos de algunos cambios drásticos en los últimos dos años con un trabajo inestable debido a los cambios presupuestarios en los últimos trimestres. Aunque PG&E controla el panorama de trabajo, estamos en comunicación continua con la empresa de servicios públicos y la alta gerencia sindical para mitigar los paros de trabajo. Si algo hemos aprendido, es que la Industria de los árboles está cambiando, y necesitamos estar preparados.

El lado de preinspección de la industria también ha tenido su cuota de cambios. Coastal Resource Group es ahora el contratista de Humboldt y del condado de Lake. El contratista de Sonoma y la parte alta de North Valley es ahora Sierra Forestry Consulting. Esto ha causado preocupación entre los miembros que trabajaban bajo un contrato con opcio-

nes distintas a las prestaciones y ahora están cambiando a un contrato con beneficios. Hemos estado realizando llamadas para brindar más claridad al proceso de comenzar a obtener beneficios.

Las reuniones de las unidades han tenido baja asistencia este trimestre; sin embargo, esperamos que la asistencia aumente ahora que el panorama de trabajo está volviendo lentamente a un ritmo constante. Todas las quejas pendientes se han resuelto. Muchos problemas se están resolviendo con una llamada telefónica, ya que esto minimiza los pasos del proceso y los plazos para las quejas.

Ahora que todas las zonas están estables con trabajo constante, esperamos tener un segundo trimestre muy ocupado, ya que los contratistas tienen plazos estrictos para completar los circuitos asignados.

— *Ray Banfill, IBEW 1245*  
*Representante de Negocios*

## Zona Central Este

Ya llegamos al final del primer trimestre y antes de que nos demos cuenta estaremos a fines de 2024. Ni las frías tormentas invernales, ni el calor abrasador, ni las largas horas tediosas, ni el dificultoso terreno, ni el cambio constante de empleadores, ni las condiciones de trabajo desafiantes... ni siquiera una pandemia han podido detener lo que se ha convertido en la fuerza laboral más prolífica de la historia. Lo que ha parecido inevitable no ha podido frenar la poderosa fuerza laboral del IBEW 1245.

En todos los territorios de gestión de la vegetación, estamos observando desafíos similares a lo largo de toda la jurisdicción del 1245. Lo que una vez fue un trabajo estable se ha convertido en un trabajo estacional. Nuestro mensaje a nuestros miembros es claro: esperemos lo mejor, pero debemos prepararnos para lo peor. El comienzo del año fue duro; algunos miembros regresaron al trabajo, pero otros no. Muchos veteranos calificados y experimentados en LCTT ahora realizan otros oficios. Los despidos el año pasado tuvieron un impacto negativo en muchos trabajadores veteranos de la industria de los árboles y sus familias. Los continuos cambios de contratistas de un territorio a otro han creado una sensación de inestabilidad.

Pareciera que tan pronto como un miembro se ha establecido con un nuevo contratista y ha aprendido el nuevo sistema, una empresa diferente aparece de la nada y se hace cargo, y ahora, deben aprender un nuevo sistema. Incluso con todos estos desafíos, nuestros miembros perseveraron, y continuarán haciéndolo sin importar la situación.

Tanto los podadores de árboles como los trabajadores de gestión de vegetación (VMI) han sufrido muchos cambios. Tener nuevas compañías y nuevos gerentes significa, en algunos casos, que los miembros deben empezar de nuevo, sin embargo, están avanzando en la dirección correcta. Aunque las adversidades son ineludibles, los increíbles miembros de IBEW 1245 todavía encuentran una

manera de seguir avanzando.

Al otro lado de las Sierras, los miembros de Asplundh Tree en Reno, NV están ansiosos y emocionados por lo que viene. Nos estamos acercando a las negociaciones, y este es un periodo emocionante porque es una oportunidad para hacer cambios en la dirección correcta, para a la larga, mejorar la industria para esos miembros. Las reuniones de la unidad en Reno han estado muy concurridas, ya que hemos dado la bienvenida a más miembros nuevos del IBEW que nunca. Mientras nos preparamos para lo que está por venir, los miembros han estado presentando propuestas para estas próximas negociaciones. ¡En este momento, nuestro enfoque es construir hoy un mañana mejor!

— *Francisco Ferreyra, IBEW 1245*  
*Representante de Negocios*

## Zona Central Oeste

Este trimestre, la actividad de quejas aumentó en toda la zona Central Oeste en la poda de árboles para el despeje de líneas, el control de vegetación, las inspecciones de gestión de vegetación y Pole Test & Treat. La mayoría de las quejas son violaciones de contratos debido a despidos indebidos, despidos injustificados y accidentes automovilísticos que han ido en aumento. Continuamos trabajando para resolver todas las quejas pendientes, y estamos realizando reuniones del sindicato y la gerencia en todo el sistema regularmente a través de Teams o en persona.

El trabajo de LCTT comenzó muy lento a principios de año, ya que se estaban produciendo varios cambios en PG&E. La mayoría de los contratistas de LCTT continúan aumentando sus actividades y contratando trabajadores actualmente, mientras que los mayores cambios se observan en los contratistas de VMI que están ejecutando trabajos en todo el sistema. Han sido momentos difíciles para aquellos que no habían vivido cambios tan drásticos dentro de este grupo de trabajo, pero estamos trabajando arduamente para encontrar trabajo para los miembros destituidos.

Los subcontratistas de LCTT también han aumentado las actividades de apoyo a los contratistas principales en todas las zonas de instalaciones de PG&E. Esperamos que esta tendencia continúe con metas de la empresa de servicios públicos de plazos programados según el pronóstico de la gestión de la vegetación. La mayoría de los contratistas tienen interés en obtener personal experimentado y calificado según lo dispuesto por la industria. El entorno actual en PG&E es crear una fuerza de trabajo más segura y productiva.

Pole Test & Treat se han enfrentado a un trabajo inconsistente, lo que hace que sea difícil mantenerse ocupado. Muchos de nuestros miembros conducen distancias considerablemente más largas ahora, y creemos que esta será la norma con las recientes tendencias presupuestarias y el movimiento de contratistas.

— *Junior Ornelas, IBEW 1245*  
*Representante de Negocios*



# ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Dean: “The Entire System Will Be Re-Built in the Next 20 Years”

In his address to the Advisory Council during the quarterly meeting in April, IBEW 1245 Business Manager Bob Dean offered a broad overview of some of the most pressing issues and opportunities facing our union. He shared updates on bargaining at the City of Vallejo; detailed the union’s renewed focus on safety; and shared highlights from recent events, including the Grid of the Future conference and the Utility Workers Day of Action at the Capitol.

He also outlined some of the biggest challenges facing our work and our industry, including the rise of AI; the potential for a reduction in line clearance tree trimming; and a series of legislative proposals that would be harmful to our union. But he also emphasized the incredible opportunity for our members and our union as state and federal funding pours in for infrastructure upgrades.

“At same time, 2.3 trillion dollars of work is coming — more than we’ve ever seen in our history, including when we built these systems,” Dean explained. “There’s a huge amount of transmission funding — and once you build transmission, then you must upgrade substations, and then the distribution system. Essentially the entire system will be rebuilt in the next 20 years.”

Dean also announced that the union will begin collecting bargaining proposals in March of 2025 for the PG&E contract negotiations.



**Business Manager Bob Dean**  
Photos by John Storey



## New Advisory Council Members Sworn In

IBEW 1245 President Cecelia De La Torre administered the oath of office to two new Advisory Council members. Rafael Burgos will be representing the members at SMUD, and Kelly Gibbs has filled the Advisory Council seat for PG&E Clerical southern area.

## Quarterly Photo Contest Winner Recognized

As the winner of the union’s quarterly photo contest, IBEW 1245 member and Journeyman Lineman Ricky Shelton showed off his winning photo and accepted his \$500 prize at the quarterly Advisory Council meeting. Full story on page 40.

## IBEW 1245 Announces 2024 Scholarship Recipients

At the April Advisory Council meeting, IBEW 1245 leadership announced the winners of the 2024 scholarships:

**Melanie Mendez**, daughter of IBEW 1245 member and TTR Substation Feb Tech Francisco Mendez, is the winner of the **Al Sandoval Scholarship**. She will be attending UC Davis, where she plans to study biochemistry and human biology.

**Kaleb Shannon**, son of IBEW 1245 member and PG&E Gas Service Rep Jeff Shannon, has won the **Roger Stalcup Community College Scholarship**. He will be attending Merced Community College in the fall.

**Gradin Schweikl**, son of IBEW 1245 member and PG&E Troublemaker Scott Schweikl, won the **Weakley Line School Scholarship**.

Flanked by their families, Mendez and Shannon accepted their scholarship awards from President Cecelia De La Torre and Business Manager Bob Dean during the April Advisory Council meeting. Schweikl was unable to attend.



From left: IBEW 1245 President Cecelia De La Torre, scholarship winner Melanie Mendez and Business Manager Bob Dean



From left: (De La Torre), scholarship winner Kaleb Shannon and (Dean)



Journeyman Lineman Ricky Shelton talks about his photo.



From left: Ricky Shelton, IBEW 1245 President Cecelia De La Torre and Business Manager Bob Dean





# SERVICE AWARDS

## San Luis Obispo

March 1, 2024



**30 Years** Front row, from left: Iris Tsosie, Christi Symens and Lorrie Laguna. Back row, from left: Mervin Sosa and Chris Drinkard



**25 Years** From left: Mike Towery, Willie Garris and Jeremy Winn



**20 Years** Front row, from left: Jeff Roby, Michael Cox. Back row, from left: Todd Kadota, Noel Granada



**45 Years** Steve Brefeld with Business Rep Patrick Duffy



**40 Years** Front row, from left: Chet Montoya, James Gordon and Keith Howland. Back row, from left: Troy Castanon, Robert Martin



### 40 Years

Front row, from left: Jeffrey Carter, Mindy Downun and Tim Ryan. Back row, from left: Cheryl Stoltenberg, Gary Stewart and Brian Cook

Photos by John Storey



### 35 Years

Front row, from left: Business Rep Jaime Tinoco, Christopher Rizor, Assistant Business Manager Mark Maumau. Back row, from left: Business Rep David Parks, Business Rep Casey Salkauskas and Business Rep Junior Ornelas

## Notice to employees subject to union security clauses

Employees working under collective bargaining agreements containing union security clauses are required as a condition of employment to pay monthly dues or fees to the union. This is their sole obligation to the union. Individuals who are members of IBEW Local 1245 pay monthly "union dues." Nonmembers, or "agency fee payers," meet their monthly obligation by the payment of an equivalent "agency fee." Nonmembers have a legal right to file objections to funding expenditures that are not germane to the union's representational duties.

Nonmembers who choose to file such objections should follow the procedures set forth herein. When evaluating this decision, individuals should be aware that the union security clause contained in their collective bargaining agreement was negotiated and ratified by their fellow employees so that everyone who benefits from the collective bargaining process shares in its cost. The working conditions of all bargaining unit employees are improved immeasurably when the union secures higher wages, better health care and pensions, fairness in the disciplinary system, promotion and transfer of sen-

iority rights, overtime pay, vacations, and many other improvements in conditions of employment at the bargaining table.

The agency fees paid by a fee payer who submits an objection will be reduced by an amount reflecting the portion of the overall expenditures of IBEW Local 1245 that are used for non-chargeable activities. Each fee payer who wishes to file an objection with Local 1245 must do so in writing, addressed to IBEW Local 1245 (Attn: Business Manager), Post Office Box 2547, Vacaville, California 95696. In registering their objections, objectors must state their name and address and that they pay fees to IBEW Local 1245, and provide their nonmember identification number, if known, and their social security number. Objections must be postmarked during the month of November preceding the calendar year for which the objection will be in effect, or during the first thirty days after the objector commences paying fees to IBEW Local 1245 as required by a collective bargaining agreement. Objections are effective for a single calendar year, and must be renewed annually during the month of November.

*Congratulations on your service!*





**10 Years**

Front Row, from left: Jose Lopez, Clint Blackham. Back row, from left: Ko Sumaryadi, and Luis Lopez



**15 Years**

Front Row, from left: Edwin Abd, Issac Mosgofian and Mitchell Madsen. Back row, from left: Jim Popowich, Briana Gardner and Ken Raco



**10 Years**

Front row, from left: Jessica Fox, Leslie Vollmer and Nancy Righetti. Back row, from left: Fernando Calderon, Seth Cannaday and Jeff Wooten



**5 Years**

Front row, from left: Monica Mostajo, Curtis Hansen and Rebecca Schley Maughmer. Back row, from left: Abraham Carmona, Cameron Hyatt and Jacob Houghton



**10 Years** Front row, from left: Ricky Williams, Dana Drake and Leo Ramirez. Back row, from left: Dorine Fabing, Delia Macais and Andrew Hernandez



**5 Years** Front row, from left: Christopher Myall, Aaron Griffin. Back row, from left: Joe Barela, Robert Yamahada and Salomon Zaragoza

**HONOREES**

**50 Years**

Martinez, Juan

**45 Years**

Brefeld, Steve  
Ramirez, Andrew  
Steingruber, John  
Uratsu, Gary

**40 Years**

Carter, Jeffrey  
Castanon, Troy  
Downum, Mindy  
Draeger, Richard  
Garcia, Hector  
Gordon, James  
Howland, Keith  
Kovach, Joseph  
Martin, Robert  
Montoya, Chetster  
Rael, Robert  
Richardson, Ray  
Ryan, Timothy  
Stewart, Gary

Stoltenberg, Cheryl

**35 Years**

Heckman, Steve  
Lamouria, Paul  
Poole, John  
Rizor, Christoph  
Wallace, William II  
Williams, Steven

**30 Years**

Coburn, Kevin  
Drinkard, Christoph  
Humphrey, Joseph  
Laguna, Lorie  
McMahan, Sean  
Quiram, Douglas  
Schmidt, John  
Silva, Robert  
Sosa, Mervin  
Spinola, Richard  
Symens, Christi  
Tsosie, Iris

**25 Years**

Brown, Corey  
Garris, William  
Johnson, Darrol  
Reeder, Donovan  
Towery, Michael  
Winn, Jeremy

**20 Years**

Anaya, Juan  
Campos, Tara  
Cox, Michael  
Digirolamo, Jeffrey  
Evangelo, Nicholas  
Galluzzo, Helmut  
Granada, Noel  
Kadota, Todd  
Krisell, Brandon  
Lavine, Jason  
Maclean, Brian  
Robles, Raul  
Roby, Jeffrey  
Sokolowski, Chris  
Soleno, Michael

Stumph, Mitchell  
Zagrzebski, Richard

**15 Years**

Abd, Edwin  
Batalla, Omar  
Commick, Kevin  
Dinsmoor, Bruce  
Flores, Matt  
Foster, John  
Gardner, Briana  
Grivjack, Steven  
Hough, Jimmy  
Hudson, Inger  
Karner, Darren  
Madsen, Mitchell  
Masterson, Anthony  
Mosgofian, Isaac  
Nash, Terence  
Newberger, Darren  
Popowich, Jim  
Razo, Kenny  
Rotta, Nicholas  
Wetzel, Timothy  
Winn, Michael

**10 Years**

Aguilar, Justin

Arellanes, Leonard  
Bedolla, Zesar  
Berroteran, Connie  
Billips, Jason  
Blackham, Clint  
Border, Travis  
Brade, Scott  
Calderon, Fernando  
Cannaday, Seth  
Chavez, Saul  
Clark, Brady  
Cooks, Daniel  
Davis, Sheila  
Decker, Bethany  
Drake, Dana  
Elizalde, Adan  
Fabing, Dorine  
Fast, Sam  
Fox, Jessica  
Garcia, Lisa  
Gibson, Anthony  
Gutierrez, Efen  
Gutierrez, Omar  
Henslin, Dallas  
Hernandez, Andrew  
Hilario, Luis Jr.  
Jimenez, Angelica  
Kalin, William

Keasler, Lesa  
Kelly, Ryan  
Kemp, Thomas  
Knupp, Paul Jr.  
Lemus, Ernesto Jr.  
Lopez, Jose  
Lopez, Luis  
Lopez, Gustavo  
Macias Marquez, Delia  
Mitchell, Chad  
Moreno, Juan  
Morlan, Christopher  
O'Connell, James  
Olafsson, Amanda  
Ortiz, Jose Jr.  
Pantoja, Seferino  
Pereira, Jesse  
Poggione, Karen  
Ponce, Rafael  
Ramirez, Leo  
Ramirez, Filiberto  
Ramos-Hernandez, Theresa  
Rea, Sally  
Reasner, David  
Riggs, Alice  
Righetti, Nancy

Rodriguez, Isaac  
Rupe, Jason  
Salazar, Saul  
Sanchez, Anthony  
Santiago, Baldomero Jr.  
Schoepf, Scott  
Seaton, Mark  
Segura, Amadeo  
Solorio, Danual  
Sumaryadi Sr, Konang  
Tabin, Angelito  
Taylor, Michael  
Taylor, Christopher  
Tinoco, Jaime  
Tosh, Shawn  
Tripp, Tracy  
Valdez, Lori  
Velasco, Ronald  
Vollmer, Leslie  
Wallace, Michael  
Whitham, Patrick  
Willey, Nicholas  
Williams, Ricky  
Wooten, Jeffrey  
Zarkovacschi, Todd  
Zavala, Andrew

Zazueta, Rudy  
Zepeda, Armando  
Zucker, Daniel

**5 Years**

Avelar, Angel  
Barela, Joseph  
Berrones, Nicholas  
Brard, Taylor  
Capshaw, Brooke  
Cardin, David  
Carmona, Abraham  
Cervantes, Ashley  
Chavez, Mike  
Cole, Adam  
Draper, Tana  
Esparza, Christian  
Ferreira, Uriah  
Forsberg, John  
Fuentes, Justin  
Gabriel, Joseph  
Griffin, Aron  
Guzman, Gabino  
Hansen, Curtis  
Heckler, Todd  
Herrera, Shea  
Hiatt, Cameron

Houghton, Jacob  
Huckabay, Justin  
Keebler, Michael Jr.  
Laguna, Ricky  
Maldonado-Lopez, Carlos  
Mikkelsen, John  
Miles, Sheldrick  
Morales, Benjamin  
Mostajo, Monica  
Myall, Christopher  
Reed, Ryan  
Roesner, Trevor  
Salazar, Alexander  
Savage, Joshua  
Schley, Rebecca  
Simpson, Cameron  
Slason, Michael  
Souza, Jordan  
Torres, Christine  
Van Dyke, Andrew  
Willis, Quinn  
Yamahata, Robert  
Zaragoza, Salomon





# SERVICE AWARDS

## Stockton

March 15, 2024

*Congratulations on your service!*



**45 Years** From left: Olivia Mercado with President Cecelia De La Torre



**35 Years**  
Julian Fernandez with (De LaTorre)



**30 Years** From left: Richard Trejo Jr, (De LaTorre) and Bryan Garner



**40 Years**  
Front row: William Koehn, Senior Assistant Business Manager Anthony Brown, and Manuel Trujillo. Back row, from left: Curtis Schmidt, James Lee Jr, and William Delatorre

Photos by John Storey



**25 Years** From left: Uriel Lopez, Agustin Garcia, and Business Representative Francisco Ferreyra



**20 Years**  
Front row, from left: Jennifer Miller, Laura Valenzuela, Lupe Ruiz. Back row, from left: Desiree Velazquez, (Brown), Elena Arreola, Veronica Deja



**20 Years**  
Front row; Faustino Anaya Ramos, Christy Harper, and Brandon Roux. Back row, from left: (Brown), Michael San Juan, Eugene Mace



**20 Years** Carlton Jones with Business Representative Ethan Stonecipher



**15 Years** Front row: Mark Goodwin, Tatiana Gallon, and Debbie Garner. Back row, from left: Samuel Hicks, Rodney Alcantor and Alberto Marquez Jr.



**15 Years** Front row, from left: Jose Romero Jr, Claudio Guzman-Moreno. Back row, from left: Business Representative Francisco Ferreyra and Assistant Business Manager Mark Maumau





### 10 Years

Front row, from left: Shanikka Jackson, Sixto Gallegos and Tina Winslow. Back row, from left: Estevan Seniseros, (Brown) and Brian Rocha



### 10 Years

Front row, from left: Jeffrey Hern, Dahlila Mosely and Travis McCrea. Back row, from left: (Brown), William Gerberding and Michael Harris



5 Years Front row, from left: (Brown) and Gustavo Chavez. Back row, from left: Eric Deaver and Luis Cuevas Anderson



### 10 Years

Front row; Emmanuel Lopez, Jennifer Leyva and Christopher Leyva. Back row, from left: Buck Leonardo, Scott Long and (Brown)



### 5 Years

Front row: Due Yang, (Brown) and Joi Garcia. Back row, from left: Juan Thunander, Celeste Tabarez and Alan Jensen



### 5 Years

Front row, from left: Kyle Marlatt, (Brown) and Enrique Valencia. Back row, from left: Nicholas Hickman, Cole Busch and Javier Alvarez



### 5 Years

Front row: Randy Vargas, (Brown), and Jennifer McCane. Back row, from left: Tyler Cole, Martin Atilano Jr., Mason Hamann

## HONOREES

### 50 Years

Blankenship, Calvin

### 45 Years

Chavez, Jorge Mercado, Olivia

### 40 Years

Bell, David  
Crandall, Brett  
Delatorre, William  
Estes, Thomas  
Holcomb, Salvatore  
Kelly, Daniel  
Kinard, Johnnie  
Koehn, William  
Lee, James Jr.  
McKinnon, Sean  
Medina, Melanie  
Pierce, David  
Puou, Thomas  
Ratfield, Cris  
Schmidt, Curtis  
Soto, Benjamin Jr.  
Trujillo, Manuel  
Vela, Mark

### 35 Years

Ceja, Francisco  
Fernandez, Julian  
Gonzalez, C  
Martin  
Laskowski, Richard  
Meeker, James  
Silveira, Don  
Whitney, Scott

### 30 Years

Clemings, Latonya  
Garner, Bryan  
Hagins, Timothy  
Rico, Martin  
Trejo, Richard Jr.

### 25 Years

Alcazar, Miguel  
Anderson, Richard  
Crites, Eric  
De Signori, Richard  
Elias, Rosie  
Garcia, Agustin  
Gonzalez, Rafael  
Lopez, Uriel  
Nunez, Jose  
Rivera, Gonzalo  
Rocksvold, Dustin  
Stewart, Ryan

### 20 Years

Anaya Ramos, Faustino  
Arreola, Elena  
Bailey, Weston  
Barlow, Jeremy  
Bashor, Robert  
Berg, Ken  
Boney, Ryan  
Camarena, River  
Camarena, Jorge  
Campbell, William Jr.  
Ceja, Veronica  
Duncan, Lavonia

Embry, Kristine  
Fetz, Michael  
Flurry, James  
Gerue, Christopher

Gonzalez, Cristina  
Goularte, Hugo  
Govea, Thomas  
Guerrero, Rosa  
Harden, Corey  
Harper, Christy  
Herrera, Jason  
Higgins, Robert  
Hussain, Shabana  
Johnson, Robert  
Jones, Carlton  
Jones, Brandon  
Lehnertz, Ricky  
Leyba, Marla  
Leyva, Frank  
Lo, Simon  
Longo, Caleb  
Mace, Eugene  
Macwilliams, Jason

### 10 Years

McCartney, Mark  
McIntire, Joseph  
Miller, Jennifer  
Mount, Russ  
Orozco, David  
Palacio, Adeline  
Pruitt, Nicole  
Relich, Ann  
Roux, Brandon  
San Juan, Michael  
Shergill, Randy  
Strauch, Jason  
Tuck, Matt  
Valencia, Enrique  
Velazquez, Laura  
Velazquez, Desiree  
Ward, David  
Wilkins, Leslie  
Yerby, Craig  
Zambrano, Santiago

### 15 Years

Alanis, Diana  
Alcantor, Rodney  
Barajas, Celia  
Breaux, Paul  
Brooke, Stephen  
Cockshott, Everett  
Dean, Abdul  
Dimas, Mark  
Doige, David  
Furr-Evans, Lakicia  
Gallon, Tatiana  
Garner, Debbie  
Gonzales, Francisco  
Goodwin, Mark  
Guajardo, Michael  
Guerrero, Preeti  
Guerrero, Norma  
Guzman-Moreno, Claudio  
Ha, Quyen  
Hicks, Samuel  
Holmes, Zeta  
Jones, Brian  
Jordan, Genavieve  
Lopez, Mary Jane  
Marquez, Alberto Jr.  
McDaniel, Christopher

McDonald, Andrew  
McNeir, Jeremiah  
Morquecho, Jennifer

Olivares, David  
Orcutt, Joseph  
Ramirez, Moises  
Romero, Daniel  
Romero, Jose Jr.  
Ryun, Michael  
Sanders, Preston  
Shafe, Michael  
Stewart, David  
Thurston, Michael  
Tibon, Leah  
Wirstlin, Jason  
Worley, Brian

### 10 Years

Ackerman, Jacob  
Aderholt, Taylor  
Alcantara, Jules  
Amaro, Juan  
Asher, David  
Bautista Vega, Alvaro  
Belluomini, Christine  
Bettencourt, Jason  
Bowers, Andrew  
Brock, Gaylon  
Bryan, Blake  
Buck, Steven  
Buenrostro, Aaron  
Burnham, James  
Castrejon, Edgardo  
Chan, Jeniva  
Chavez, Armondo  
Cheney, Michael  
Cumpian, Albert  
Cunningham, Derrick  
Cunningham, Rick Jr.  
Davalos, Aldo III  
Dixon, Jamir  
Downey, Daniel  
Duncan, Cecil  
Fidalgo, Elliott  
Fischer, Robert  
Flores, Javier  
Gallegos, Sixto  
Gerberding, William  
Gomes, Joey  
Guillory, Louis  
Gully, Victor  
Gutierrez, Alberto  
Hagins, Kalen  
Harris, Michael  
Heal, Christopher  
Heinrich, Levi  
Hern, Jeffrey  
Hernandez, Pablo  
Hing, Phalenna  
Hoch, Gary  
Jackson, Shanikka  
Kancianich, Tim  
Kral, David II  
Large, David  
Leonardo, Buck  
Leyva, Jennifer  
Leyva, Christopher  
Long, Scott  
Lopez, Emmanuel

Lopez, Yadira  
Louis, Anthony  
Marchand, Angel  
Marchiondo, Pasquinel

McCrea, Travis  
McDaniels, Demisha  
Miller, James  
Morales, Hector  
Morris, Ronald Jr.

Mosely, Dahlila  
Navarrete, Alirio  
Navarro, Lorenzo  
Nelson, Richard  
Olguin, Dominic  
Ong, Ryan  
Openshaw, Dylan  
Padilla, Carlos  
Pasma, Joshua  
Pavon, Marcus  
Payne, Nicholas  
Perkins, Aaron  
Peterson, Kyle  
Ramirez, Alvaro  
Reynosa, Eugene  
Roberts, Brian  
Rocha, Brian  
Rodriguez, Alejandro  
Rossi, Ronald Jr.  
Ruffin, Kenneth Jr.

Saul, Adam  
Selby, Kyle  
Seniseros, Estevan  
Shepherd, Zachary  
Sinclair, Justin  
Sirkel, Brent  
Soto, Raul Jr.  
Sprinkle, Randolph Jr.  
Stokman, Martin  
Suarez, Jorge  
Uffens, Greg  
Ulloa, Arturo  
Vessel, Derick  
Waid, Charles  
West, Jesse  
Winslow, Tina  
Word, David Jr.  
Worley, Layne  
Zuber, Lee

### 5 Years

Acierto, Antero  
Aguayo, Jose  
Alcantor, Andrew  
Aldenzee, Chad  
Alston, Mark  
Alvarez, Javier  
Anderson, David  
Anderson, Brian  
Arter, Donald  
Atilano, Martin Jr.  
Augustin, Myles  
Avery, Devier  
Bailey, Steven  
Baldonado, Joshua Anthony  
Barnes, Jacob  
Beatty, Alexander  
Becerril, Luis  
Bell, Patrick  
Bellings, Terry  
Benning, James  
Blomquist, Craig  
Bonds, Joshua  
Brascesco, Ryan  
Burriss, Kyle  
Busch, Cole  
Cabezas-

Hernandez, Jose  
Carter, Clinton  
Carter, Shombia

Castaneda, Isidro  
Castaneda, Salvador  
Castor, Alvaro  
Ceja Ferrer, Antonio

Chavez, Gustavo  
Christensen, Alex  
Clardy, Alex  
Cole, Tyler II  
Collier, Andrew  
Collins, Patrick  
Cooper, Donald  
Covello, Nicole  
Cuevas Anderson, Luis  
Da Silveira, David  
Antonio  
Deaver, Eric  
Derrick, Jacob  
Dominguez, James  
Enriquez, Joshua  
Flores, Ezekiel  
Ford, Taelor  
Fosdick, Dylan  
Fosdick, James Jr.

Frausto, Alberto  
Fuentes, Philip  
Garcia, Joi  
Garibaldi, Edgar  
Gil Ochoa, Cristian  
Gomez, Francisco III  
Gonzalez, Edmann  
Gray, Nathan  
Gutierrez, Eric  
Hamann, Mason  
Hay, Geoffrey  
Hedge, Brandon  
Hernandez, Marco  
Hernandez, Martinez, Catalino  
Herrera, Alex  
Herrera, Juan  
Hickman, Nicholas  
Hopkins, Matthew  
Howard, Justin  
Howell, Michael  
Hurst, Todd  
Ibanez, Daniel  
Icasiano, Marion  
Jantz, Darrell  
Jensen, Alan  
Johnson, Bradley  
Jones, Robert  
Kaur, Kuldeep  
Lafayette, Joel  
Lang, Kyle  
Larson, Kevin  
Lobato, Elizabeth  
Lombay, Joaquin  
Lopez, Enrique  
Lopez, Felipe  
Lopez, Edgar  
Lowe, Logan  
Machado, John  
Mackiewicz, Alan  
Mangel, Jay  
Manipol, Jesse  
Martin, Christopher  
Martinez, Cesar  
Martinez, Rafael Jr.

Mathiesen, Kevin  
Mattos, Trevor  
Mayo-Corallo, Trevor

McCane, Jennifer  
McCrummen, Eric  
McIntosh, Wanaiya  
McLaughlin, Joshua  
McNeal, Latisha  
Mendoza-Baragan, Alberto

Meredith, Jr  
Meredith, Phillip  
Mergen, Matthew  
Moffitt, Jonathan  
Montanez, Jesus  
Moua, Judy  
Nang, Randy  
Navarro, Nicholas  
North, Frankie  
Ocampo, Jose  
Oman, Wayne  
Pau Yat, Abraan  
Phillips, Michael  
Pinon, Enrrique  
Porter, Austin  
Poth, Ian  
Powers, John  
Prasad, Dharmendra

Pritchard, Kenneth  
Quartaroli, Robert  
Quiroz, Alberto  
Raggio, Stuart  
Ramirez, Lisa  
Reyes, Daniel  
Reynolds, Jacob  
Romero-Vazquez, Santiago  
Rosendo, Luis  
Ross, Kevin II  
Salmeri, Frankie  
Sanchez, Alfredo  
Sanchez, Fernando  
Sanchez Diaz, Fernando  
Sanchez, Santiago  
Sandoval, Arturo  
Scott, Martin  
Serrano, Sigfredo  
Serrato, Hector  
Solis, Marco  
Souza, Christopher  
Sparkman, Colin  
Starks, Thomas  
Talamante, Moses  
Terry, Jesse  
Thornburg, Justyn  
Thunander, Juan  
Tiscareno, Andrew  
Trammell, Wyatt  
Vargas, Randy  
Vazquez, Omar  
Vazquez Rosas, Pablo  
Vazquez Rosas, Gonzalo  
Walker, Geoff  
Weese, Daryn  
Wheeler, Timothy  
Williams, Celeste  
Wynecoop, Hope  
Yang, Due  
Zweifel, Tracy





# SERVICE AWARDS

## Merced February 9, 2024

*Congratulations  
on your service!*

## HONOREES

### 40 Years

Barcellos, Richard  
Higgins, Sean  
Ledoux, David  
Lee, Rick  
Leonardo, Jerry  
Mayhew, James  
Norman, Anthony  
Tollakson, Daniel

### 35 Years

Elam, Jon  
Kelley, David

### 30 Years

Cavazos, Eduardo  
Mendez, Antonio  
Milliren, Karen

### 25 Years

Flores, Rodrigo  
Foster, Franklin  
Hatfield, Kyle  
Nava-Flores, Rogelio

### 20 Years

Castro, Salvador  
Cramer, Nicholas  
Diaz, Mariano  
Mace, Timothy  
Valencia-Garcia,  
Ventura Jr.

### 15 Years

Gibson, Adam  
Larios, Mario  
Larios, Florentino  
Lopez, Jorge  
Olivarez, Paul  
Torres, Jonas

Velgara, Ramiro  
Villanueva, Michael  
Ward, Gina  
Wiltens, Philip

### 10 Years

Aguilar, Matthias  
Alcaraz, Rene  
Bates, William  
Busby, Stanley Jr.  
Coonce, Trevor  
Espinoza, Marco  
Gonzalez, Carlos  
Guzman, Juan  
Hernandez-Arvizu,  
Gabriel  
Jurado-Navarro,  
Victor  
Luffy, Sean  
Mena-Sandoval,  
Angel  
Mendez, Anibal  
Peterson, Curtis  
Petter, Alan  
Roos, Benjamin

### 5 Years

Aguilar-Gutierrez,  
Victor  
Allison, Patrick  
Allison, Russell  
Alta Ramirez,  
Cresencio  
Arellano, Samuel  
Arendse, Owen  
Baker, Hunter  
Bandurraga, Devin  
Bettencourt,  
Christopher  
Bondshu, Travis  
Borba, Timothy

Camarillo-Herrera,  
Darinel  
Caudillo, Mario Jr.  
Cramer, Colton  
Dalmaso, Giovanni  
Dutra, Jayson  
Fischbach, Joshua  
Foltz, Steven  
Fonseca, Cyrus  
Fuentes, Jose  
Jackson, Brett  
Jaso, Victor  
Lopez, Luis  
Mah, Dillon  
Marin, Osvaldo  
Medina Valencia,  
Candelario  
Millan, Cruz  
Moffitt, William  
Mooney, Erin  
Moore, Dillon  
Murray, Brian  
Nakphouminh, Danny  
Orosco, Nicholas  
Ortega, Joseph  
Perez, Constantino  
Reilly, Kyle  
Reyes, Sergio  
Rice, Dakota  
Rodriguez, Carlos  
Rodriguez, Miguel  
Sales, Branden  
Sanchez, Gabriel  
Sanchez, Cesar  
Sanchez-Zepeda,  
Rafael  
Sawtell, Jeffrey  
Scroggins, Robert  
Spratlings, Leland  
Starr, James  
Wood, Robert



**40 Years** From left: Daniel Tollakson, Senior Assistant Business Manager Al Fortier and David Ledoux



**30 Years** From left: (Fortier) and Karen Milliren



**25 Years** From left: Rodrigo Flores, (Fortier) and Franklin Foster



**20 Years** From left: Salvador Castro and (Fortier)



### 15 Years

From left: Jonas Torres, Jorge Lopez, Business Rep Ben Contreras, Florentino Larios

Photos by John Storey



### 10 Years

From left: Carlos Gonzalez, (Fortier) and Cruz Mendez



**5 Years** Front row, from left: Cesar Sanchez, Leland Spratling and Samuel Arellano. Back row, from left: Joseph Ortega, Victor Jaso and Osiela Zamora

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# SERVICE AWARDS

## North Bay February 23, 2024



**25 Years** From left: Alfonso Toscana Business Rep Ray Banfil and Feliciano Diaz



**55 Years** Assistant Business Manager Mike Adayan with Larry Pierce  
Photos by John Storey



**40 Years** From left: Dave Maffei, (Adayan) and Randy Burke



**20 Years** From left: (Adayan) and Jack Jones



**15 Years** From left: Business Rep Mike Tilden, Bodie Thorpe and Chrisy Burroughs

*Congratulations  
on your service!*

## HONOREES

### 55 Years

Pierce, Larry

### 45 Years

Deignan, Patrick

### 40 Years

Ako, Thomas  
Anderson, Ronald  
Arvig, Ben  
Atoe, Tala  
Burke, Randy  
Center, Keith  
Charlton, Dennis  
Hernandez, David  
Khiev, Saun  
Llave, Gaylord  
Maffei, Dave  
Segale, Steven  
Sunday, Martin  
Terrill, Richard  
Vallejos, Gigi

### 35 Years

Rittenhouse, Wrenn

### 25 Years

Courts, Mike  
Diaz, Feliciano  
Markowski, Jason  
Toscano, Alfonso

### 20 Years

Austin, Clint  
Avila, Francisco  
Bynum, Kiawa  
Crownover, Christopher  
Flint, Craig  
Guerrero, Raul  
Hessong, Erik  
Higgins, Ian  
Hines, George  
Ingram, John  
Jones, Jack  
Kerch, Treavor  
Langseth, Matthew  
O'Brien, Thomas III  
Orozco, Juan-Carlos

Palu, Epalahame  
Rolie, Adam  
Sullivan, Matthew  
Vasques, Antonio

### 15 Years

Breeden, Brandon  
Burroughs, Chrisy  
Figueroa, Daniel  
Guerrero, Adan  
Kiernan, Craig  
Kliwer, Eric  
Ruiz, Reynaldo  
Thorpe, Bodie  
Witherspoon, Mark

### 10 Years

Bonner, Brandon  
Callinan, Gary  
Devenny, Janelle  
Eidsen, Shaun  
Furuli, Matthew  
Hansell, David III  
Hirschi, Christopher  
Kniffin, Anderw  
Lopez, Steve Jr.  
Lotz, James  
Lunardi, Taylor  
Mahlandt, Ryan  
Marigold, Caitlin  
Martinez Flores, Antonio  
McLaughlin, Adam  
Melao, Steven  
Nail, Wesley Jr.  
Oseguera, Jaime  
Pacheco, Alexander  
Pardue, Michael  
Ramirez, Lucas  
Rege, Rance  
Ruonavaara, Jacob  
Sacco, Mario  
Seay, Shamir  
Soderquist, Jadon  
Swank, Vincent  
Vajda, Lucas  
Welch, Jacob  
Zinkl, Matthew

### 5 Years

Ackerman, Trent  
Albinana, Christopher  
Arana, Rudy  
Banzon, Kristopher  
Jay  
Barakat, Samy  
Black, Malcolm  
Bradley, Matt  
Cadwallader, Craig  
Calderon, Guadalupe  
Cooke Sr, Kenny  
Cooper, Brian  
Cox, Anthony  
Damos-Deurloo, Kenneth  
Daniels, Logan  
Doughty, Brandon  
Erlendson, Evan  
Faix, Tyler  
Flores, Enrique  
Glovier, Joshua  
Granados, Fernando  
Holben, Chase  
Laino, Stefan  
Lutzenberg, Andrew  
Medina, Fermin  
Mi, Michael  
Miller, Robert  
Oconner, Rowan  
Penrose, Paul  
Perez-Tinoco, Arcenio  
Rodriguez, Lucas  
Roux, Garrett  
Salcedo, Mason  
Santiago, Ursino  
Schnaible, Kaleb  
Skikos, Andrew II  
Smith, Levi  
Stark, Jacob  
Turner, Stephen  
Vielhaber, Mark  
Wilson, Joshua  
Yokoyama, Mark



**10 Years** From left: Antonio Martinez Flores, Shaun Eidsen and (Banfil)



**5 Years** From left: Anthony Cox, (Adayan) and Evan Erlendson

**Photos and highlights from IBEW 1245's spring events, including the Gas and Lineman Rodeos, Clay Shoot and Soccer Tournament, to appear in the next edition of Utility Reporter.**







# SERVICE AWARDS

## Ukiah March 30, 2024

*Congratulations on your service!*



**40 Years** From left: Alan Markarian, Business Rep Ray Banfill and Assistant Business Manager Mark Maumau



**35 Years** Daniel Garcia with Business Rep Sean Marsh



### 20 Years

David Felicich with Business Rep Sean Marsh



### 15 Years

James O'Brien with Business Rep Mark Wilson

Photos by John Storey



**10 Years** From left: Assistant Business Manager Mark Maumau, Sean Barrett and Business Rep Ray Banfill



### 5 Years

Front row, from left: Tammie Szupello-Smith, Mya Lara and Krystle Coffman. Back row, from left: Kamrin Mitchell, Miguel Peredia and Assistant Business Manager Mike Adayan



**5 Years** From left: Dustin Westfall, Derek Troxler and Brett Holguin

# HONOREES

## 40 Years

Banfill, Ray  
Breci, Anthony  
Harms, Erik  
La Delle, Monte  
Markarian, Alan  
Neri, Robert Jr.  
Pearson, Paul

## 35 Years

Garcia, Daniel  
Guy, Kevin

## 25 Years

Noble, Ben  
Robles, Victor

## 20 Years

Felicich, David  
Finney, Jennifer  
Sanchez, Erick

## 15 Years

Huck, Dominic  
O'Brien, James  
Pickersgill,  
Howard

## 10 Years

Adam, Aaron  
Agenbroad, Brian  
Barrett, Sean  
Beck, Glen  
Brown, Dustin  
Camara, Casey  
Chacon, Josephallen  
Coit, Steven Jr.  
Devenny, Mitchell  
Dodd, Kevin Andy  
Garrity, David

Greene, Jalenna  
Gregorio-Arroyo,  
Daniel

Hencz, Jesse  
Hernandez, Ruben  
Huck, Anthony  
Johnson, William  
Kuntz, Kristin  
Langston,  
Cheyenne  
Langston, Shilo  
Markham,  
Timothy  
McCullough, Craig  
Mollett, Ricky Jr.  
Noel, Tyler  
Paulson, Bryan  
Perry, Chris  
Ramos, Salomon  
Rodriguez, Jose  
Southard, Brett  
Weaver, Timothy  
Woodruff, Bruce

## 5 Years

Cardenas  
Espinosa, Diego  
Castro, Jesse Sr.  
Cheek, Benjamin  
Clark, Jacob  
Coffman, Krystle  
Comer, Bailey  
Cortez, Miguel  
Daly, Connor  
Del Aguila, Eliseo  
Delossantos, Alma  
Fleming, Patrick  
Folmar, Robert  
Fraser, Ryan  
Galloway, Taylor  
Garcia-Rivera,  
Josue  
Gladden, Ryan

Harris, Jeremy  
Holguin, Brett  
Huffman, Tucker  
La Fortune,  
Nathan  
Lara, Mya  
Lopez Bernal,  
Pablo

Mack, Christopher  
Mitchell, Kamrin  
Mitchell, Kimberly  
Moon, Nicholas  
Moore, Paul  
Nelson,  
Christopher  
Noble, Blake  
O'Brien, Kelly  
Orozco Carranza,  
Ruben  
Peredia, Miguel  
Petitt, Guillermo  
Jr.

Pulse, Jesse  
Ramirez, Darryl  
Robbins, Brett  
Rodriguez, Fabian  
Satterwhite,  
Nicholas  
Snider, Michael  
Stringham,  
Christian  
Suarez-Garcia,  
Omar  
Sutton, Ian  
Szupello-Smith,  
Tammie  
Telemchuk, Mark  
Tomasia, Kevin  
Trimble, Kendall  
Troxler, Derek  
Underhill, Cheryl  
Villa, Heriberto Jr.  
Westfall, Dustin



# SERVICE AWARDS

## Additional

# HONOREES

## 50 Years

Daft, Greg

## 45 Years

Andersen, Michael  
Diedrich, Daniel  
Dion, Michael  
Vink Sr, Bryan

## 40 Years

Andrews, Ted  
Etchison, Richard  
Imler, Robert  
McCarty, Charles  
Salaiz, Dennis  
Sargent, Lisa  
Stewart, Steven

## 35 Years

Casey, Brian  
Larson, Chris  
Rodriguez, Mike  
Swindell, David  
Wilson, Matthew

## 30 Years

Brown, Erin  
Hill, James Jr.

Masters, Dane  
Nunnemaker,  
Vincent

## 25 Years

Bennett, Ronald  
Bowers, Jacob  
Conway, Jarod  
Finney, Shane  
Florez, Armando  
Gaetani, Jeremiah  
Granger, Steve  
Heil, Forest  
Howell, Marc  
Huntington, Aron  
Pinochi, Justin  
Torres, Juan

## 20 Years

Adkins, Jason  
Barnes, Craig  
Blackmon, Brad  
Cardenas, Anthony  
Cervantes, Jose Jr.  
Cummings,  
Matthew  
Goodfriend, Cody  
Greene, Christopher  
Hatch, David

Jones, Trent  
Kesler, James  
Muckey, Stacy  
Nevarez, Michael  
Poloncak, Theron  
Schulke, Eric  
Simon, Sonya  
Small, Kevin  
Tune, Christopher  
Williams, Jeramie

## 15 Years

Allison, Ryan  
Baker, Andrew  
Bartley, Dustin  
Cruz, Casey  
Desy, Gerald  
Dillon, Xavier  
Dolph, Shane  
Green, Marcus  
Head, Gerard  
Head, Bryan  
Huffman, David  
Martinez, Robert  
McKelvy, Jeremy  
Shrum, Joel  
Swanson, Jonathan  
Ventura, Bayani  
Walker, Jesse

## 10 Years

Amezcu, Edgar  
Bigej, David  
Blalock, Michael  
Bland, Willis  
Bowersox, Amy  
Burke, Michael  
Cervantes,  
Francisco Sr.  
Clark, David  
Craker, Steven  
Davidson, Zack  
Davis, John  
Dobrescu, Nikolai  
Farrell, William  
Gutierrez, Walter  
Hatch, Heath  
Hernandez, Aaron  
Kline, Tucker  
Lewis, Jarrod  
Lopez, Frank  
Luisjuan, Francisco  
Luke, Robert  
McKinney, James  
Mosley, Braxton  
Nelson, Mitchell  
Ramirez, Raymond  
Rattanasavanh,  
Michael  
Rogers, Brad  
Salas, Angel  
Sims, Dakota  
Strickland, Thomas  
Stumpf, Larry  
Swain, Cody  
Timoschuk, Vincent  
Ward, Paul  
Watts, Kenya  
Zamoran, Danny

## 5 Years

Abbene, Nathaniel  
Aguayo, Salvador  
Aguilar, Raymond

Alcorn, Joseph  
Alvarez Blanco,  
Mercedes  
Argueta Mota, Jose  
Banuelos, John  
Barraza, Joseph  
Benavides, Enrique  
Benedict, Cole  
Bergye, Evans  
Bolanos, Rigoberto  
Bowman, Charles  
Jr.  
Bravo, Candido  
Brooks, Tyler  
Butts, Garrett  
Cabral, Robert  
Calix, Edwin  
Carrillo, Steve  
Ceja, Aaron  
Combs, Yader  
Cookson, Spencer  
Cruz, Jose  
De Los Santos  
Ascencion, Miguel  
Angel  
De Los Santos  
Romero, Narciso  
Defeo, Jake  
Dehart, Justin  
Diaz, Daniel  
Dinch, Derek  
Drewry, Cody  
Eastlick, Conner  
Eddings, Brandon  
Eubank, Greg  
Ferren, Timothy  
Ferstermann,  
Benjamin  
Fuentes, Brandon  
Gamboa, Daniel  
Garcia, Wilberto  
Gill, Lincoln  
Gilmer, Jerry Jr.  
Gutierrez, John  
Hale, Melvin

Haley, Kevin  
Hall, Jonathon  
Hansen, Boe  
Haynes, Jason  
Hunt, Dylan  
Hunter, Jason  
Hutchison, Shawn  
Ibarra, Manuel  
Jackman, Colton  
Jaquez, Jason  
Jimenez Funez,  
Sergio  
Johnson, Archie  
Jones, Larry  
Juarez, Julio  
Karratti, Chaz  
Keller, Brandyn  
Kobler, Taylor  
Leanos, Leonel  
Lenz, Jared  
Long, Samuel  
Lopez, Christian  
Lopez, Brandon  
Luzada, Fernando  
Luza, Christopher  
Lucatero, John  
Martinez, Jose  
McKague, Cody  
McKaig, Emily  
McNeil, Jason  
Meza, Raul  
Miller, William  
Mitchell, Erick  
Moffitt, Colton  
Montes, Gustavo  
Moore, Shawn  
Myers, Douglas  
Myers, Jonathon  
Ortiz, Angel  
Ortiz, Andrew  
Osborne, Justin  
Osorio, Humberto  
Owens, Cedric  
Persky, Sean  
Prieto, Heriberto Jr.

Ramirez, Kenton  
Ramirez Meza,  
Jerson  
Revolorio Martinez,  
Nelson  
Reyna, Ricardo  
Reyna, Mario  
Rice, Damian  
Stringham, Peter  
Rogers, Mark  
Ruiz, Jesus  
Ruiz Quinones,  
Celso  
Saiz, Robert  
Salas, Edward  
Sanchez, Juan  
Santos, Daniel  
Sever, John  
Silvio, David  
Slocum, Garrett  
Smasne, Riley  
Stout, Brandon  
Streelman, Dakota  
Stringham, Peter  
Swatsenbarg,  
Bobby  
Tenbrink, Daniel  
Tipton, Will  
Torres, Alexis  
Torres B, Miguel  
Tunucci, Giovanni  
Vargas, Erick  
Vazquez Rosas,  
Mario  
Vazquez Rosas,  
Fabian  
Vazquez Rosas,  
Luis  
Wallentine, CJ  
Wartak, PJ  
Yanes, Luis  
Yanke, Austin  
Zepeda, Joseph III



# “Teamwork is the Only Way You Succeed”

## Keith Hopp Reflects on His Career at IBEW 1245

IBEW 1245 Business Rep Keith Hopp is retiring this year after eight years on staff, and 41 years as a member of the union.

Brother Hopp started his career at PG&E in 1983 as a utility worker in the gas department. He spent the next 33 years working his way up on the gas side, from field person, to fitter arc, to gas crew foreman, to a stint as a temporary first line supervisor, to work and resource coordinator.

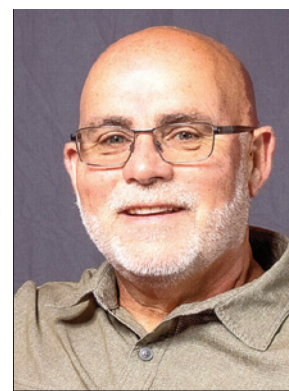
A dedicated union activist, Hopp served as a 1245 unit chair, shop stew-

ard, and ballot judge for the ballot committee during his time as a rank-and-file member, and he also represented the union during PG&E’s business transformation. A staunch advocate for safety, Hopp sat on 1245’s Health & Safety committee, wrote several safety articles for the union newspaper, and was also a founding member of 1245’s Control the Pressure gas peer safety committee.

Hopp joined the IBEW 1245 staff in 2016, representing PG&E gas members in the Sacramento area. He’s remained a vital member of 1245’s safety culture

team during that time as well.

When asked about his most memorable assignments during his time on staff, Hopp first recalled how impactful it was to support the mutual aid gas crews and service people who responded to the Boston over-pressurization incident in 2018. He also mentioned how much enjoyed playing an active role in the gas rodeos and various safety committees he’s supported over the years.



Keith Hopp

“The thing I will miss the most about 1245 is the teamwork,” he said as he reflected over his career as a Business Rep. “At many places I’ve worked, they would throw the word team around, but this is the only job I’ve ever had where teamwork was the only way you would succeed.”

When asked what he was looking forward to most in retirement, his answer was succinct and highly relatable:

“Not having to look at my phone.”



Alyce Reese, secretary of the Yerington Retirees, presented the check to Linda Romero, President of YAPS. They are joined by other members of the Retirees Club.

### Yerington Retirees Present Donation to Yerington Animal Protective Society

IBEW Local 1245’s Yerington Retirees Club presented the Yerington Animal Protective Society (YAPS) with a donation of \$250 from the Community Fund to put towards their spay/neuter and nourishment programs.



Hopp (right) and his crew in the late 90s, when he was working for PG&E as a gas crew foreman.



### 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!

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Aamir, Ali<br>20 years<br>Bakersfield, CA      | Burk, Eric<br>33 years<br>Concord, CA        | Cisneros, Tony<br>44 years<br>Fairfield, CA     | Encallado, Reggie<br>45 years<br>Salinas, CA        |
| Allard, Mark<br>32 years<br>Pismo Beach, CA    | Burke, Randy<br>39 years<br>Windsor, CA      | Coleman, Robert<br>27 years<br>Livermore, CA    | Ferretti, Mercedes<br>39 years<br>Discovery Bay, CA |
| Atoe, Tala<br>39 years<br>Windsor, CA          | Burrow, Jason<br>38 years<br>Santa Rosa, CA  | Craig, Mark<br>20 years<br>Grover Beach, CA     | Finnegan, Dennis<br>42 years<br>Tracy, CA           |
| Barrameda, Cecil<br>38 years<br>Sacramento, CA | Candido, Craig<br>33 years<br>Manteca, CA    | Cross, Andrew<br>31 years<br>Pleasanton, CA     | Franco, Richard<br>39 years<br>Pleasanton, CA       |
| Beeler, Edward<br>33 years<br>Escalon, CA      | Castaneda, Victor<br>41 years<br>Redding, CA | Del Bono, Jesse<br>27 years<br>Grass Valley, CA | Garcia, Raymond<br>30 years<br>Salinas, CA          |
| Britt, Michael<br>31 years<br>Lodi, CA         | Castro, Albert<br>37 years<br>Morro Bay, CA  | Dewey, Julie<br>35 years<br>Yuba City, CA       | Green, Michael<br>39 years<br>Elk Grove, CA         |

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| Hess, Rodney<br>38 years<br>Brentwood, CA         | Lopez, Phyles<br>42 years<br>Bakersfield, CA      | Puckett, Randy<br>45 years<br>Clovis, CA        | Stephens, Scott<br>62 years<br>Tucson, AZ      |
| Hidalgo, Anthony<br>26 years<br>Oakdale, CA       | Lytte, John<br>43 years<br>Palo Cedro, CA         | Renfree, Sam<br>44 years<br>Auburn, CA          | Swann, Charles<br>6 years<br>Patterson, CA     |
| Iwasaki, Arthur<br>51 years<br>Marysville, CA     | MacDonald, Renee<br>48 years<br>San Francisco, CA | Richardson, Ray<br>39 years<br>Nipomo, CA       | Taff, Joan<br>29 years<br>Reedley, CA          |
| Johnson, Martin<br>43 years<br>Bayside, CA        | MacMahon, Carl<br>22 years<br>San Luis Obispo, CA | Rodrigues, Lee<br>44 years<br>Antioch, CA       | Vincent, Jack<br>38 years<br>Dublin, CA        |
| Kern, Paul<br>38 years<br>San Luis Obispo, CA     | McCall, Marc<br>33 years<br>Lincoln, CA           | Saiki, William<br>33 years<br>Los Osos, CA      | Wallace, William<br>35 years<br>Atascadero, CA |
| Kollman, Mark<br>35 years<br>Galt, CA             | Mijares, Raoul<br>10 years<br>Brentwood, CA       | Salminen, Eric<br>22 years<br>Livermore, CA     | Wimer, Greg<br>38 years<br>Losmolinos, CA      |
| Krugman, Archer<br>40 years<br>Vacaville, CA      | Mora, Susan<br>38 years<br>Clovis, CA             | Schappert, David<br>43 years<br>San Mateo, CA   | Wright, Robert<br>42 years<br>Oakland, CA      |
| Lacombe Jr., Jackson<br>42 years<br>Livermore, CA | Myatt, Richard<br>31 years<br>Ceres, CA           | Serrano, Margarita<br>48 years<br>San Bruno, CA |  |
| Lamouria, Paul<br>34 years<br>Atascadero, CA      | Narlesky, Peter<br>33 years<br>San Jose, CA       | Silva, Edward<br>38 years<br>San Jose, CA       |  |
| Leake, Carla<br>0 years<br>Sacramento, CA         | Owens, Brian<br>46 years<br>Sonora, CA            | Silva, Shawn<br>39 years<br>Smartville, CA      |  |
| Lemos, Kathleen<br>26 years<br>Angels Camp, CA    | Peres, Randy<br>26 years<br>Cloverdale, CA        | Smith, Lowell<br>39 years<br>San Ramon, CA      |  |
| Lopez, John<br>42 years<br>Chico, CA              | Pittson, Walter<br>19 years<br>San Ramon, CA      | St.Clair, Marta<br>13 years<br>Fresno, CA       |  |

**Congratulations Retirees!**  
**We want you to STAY CONNECTED**  
**to IBEW 1245.**





## City of Roseville Unit Presents Community Fund Donation to Placer Veterans Stand Down

IBEW 1245 members from the City of Roseville presented a Community Fund donation to the Placer Veterans Stand Down, a nonprofit dedicated to giving back to the local veteran community by providing free services to them and their family members. Diane Murifield, President of PVSD, accepted the donation.

In this photo, Murifield is joined by Local 1245 members Ike Vandevener, Roger Schemerhorn, Anthony Lattuca, Nate Mattila, Brendan Gossic, and Mike Barton.

— Charley Souders, IBEW 1245 Business Rep



### Units lend a helping hand

All of the following unit donations to various charitable organizations from January through March 2024 were approved by the IBEW 1245 Executive Board.

**City of Roseville Unit #3512** donated \$500 to the Placer County Veterans Stand Down. (2023 funds)

**Quincy Dam Unit #3419** donated \$500 to the Greenville Little League

**Merced ID Unit #1123** donated \$250 to Atwater HS boys soccer department and \$250 to Merced HS varsity softball team. (2023 funds)

**Diablo Canyon Power Plant Unit #1220** donated \$250 to Nipomo AYSO Region 716 and \$250 to Five Cities Girl Scouts. (2023 funds)

**Yerington Retirees** donated \$250 to the Yerington Animal Protection Society (YAPS).

**Burney Unit #3213** donated \$500 to the Boy Scouts Troop 38.

**City of Redding Unit #3217** donated \$250 to Foothill High School Ski & Snowboarding team; \$250 to NorCal Elite Gymnastics team and \$350 in matching funds to Foothill High School Volleyball team.

**SLO/Pismo Beach Unit #1215** donated \$500 to the SLO Rangers baseball team in Arroyo Grande.

**Concord Unit #2316** donated \$500 to the Renegades Youth Sports Club in Martinez.

**Wheatland Unit #3213** donated \$500 to Ainsley's Angels Sacramento.

**Stockton Clerical Unit #2509** donated \$500 to Live Oak 4H. (2023 funds)

### Support For IBEW 1245 Member Whose Son Was Severely Burned

IBEW 1245 member Lloyd Boyer's teenage son, Warren, was involved in an terrible accident at school where he inadvertently caught his clothing on fire while grinding metal in shop class. He suffered from third-degree burns across much of his



body, and his year-long recovery will require custom splints, compression clothing, occupational therapy, multiple doctor appointments, and more.

Boyer, who works as an Electrical Machinist at South Feather Water and Power, could use our help with the mounting medical bills and other costs associated with Warren's recovery. Please contribute what you can using <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-warren-win-against-this-burn>



### Support For IBEW 1245 Member Hospitalized in ICU

IBEW 1245 member Jayden Davis-Paulson, a healthy 21-year-old, was found February 29, 2024, lying unresponsive in the snow while on the job as a meter reader for Liberty Utilities. He immediately underwent emergency heart surgery in Reno, and was later transferred to UCSF for additional surgeries and procedures. His condition is slowly improving, but he remains under close monitoring in the ICU.

His father, Andy, is also an IBEW 1245 member who is currently off work to be with his son. The Paulson family could use our support to assist with medical bills and other expenses during this trying time.



Please give what you can using the <https://www.gofundme.com/f/rv3qpm-help-jayden-recover>



### Support for IBEW 1245 Troublemaker Involved in Work Accident

Nineteen-year IBEW 1245 member Kyle Kane was working as a troublemaker for PG&E when he was involved in a horrific accident.

"He was pinned between a gate and his heavy work truck. He stood there pinned for seven hours before a security officer found him," his sister, Rachelle, said. "He was then medi-flighted to the hospital, suffering from hypothermia, renal failure and compartment syndrome in both legs because of being crushed for so long. Anyone who knows Kyle knows his strength and love for life. He has an amazing wife with four beautiful boys age eight and under. He is a fighter and will get through this, but he has a very long road to recovery ahead of him."

**UPDATE:** In early April, IBEW 1245 Senior Assistant Business Manager Bob Gerstle visited with Brother Kane's wife, Chelsea, to deliver the proceeds from an IBEW 1245 "pass the hat" collection that raised over \$1,000.

"She was touched to tears by the generosity of our members who contributed," Gerstle said, adding that Brother Kane's condition continues to improve. "This will be the first day since the tragedy that Kyle will not require dialysis. The road ahead will be very long for Kyle and his recovery, but the family is celebrating this positive news."

To assist Brother Kane and his family with the expenses associated with his recovery, please donate using <https://www.gofundme.com/f/kyle-kane-road-to-recovery>







IBEW 1245 showed up in force at the NRC hearing regarding the relicensing of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant.

## *IBEW 1245 Members from DCPD Express Support for Relicensing the Power Plant*

On Feb. 8, a powerful delegation of 25 IBEW 1245 members from the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, along with two members of 1245's Executive Board, attended the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) public hearing for the relicensing of DCPD. The hearing took place in San Luis Obispo, with approximately 75-100 members of the public in attendance.

The public comment period lasted nearly three hours, as there were many commenters who testified both for and against the relicensing of DCPD, but our group's presence was apparent in the room. Four of our members issued public comments in support of relicensing. Local 639 also showed up in support and made several comments in support of relicensing.

— Pat Duffy, IBEW 1245 Business Rep



## *PG&E Senior Power Generation Inspectors Vote Unanimously to Join IBEW 1245*

PG&E's Senior Power Generation Inspectors are specialized in a variety of areas, including commercial diving, electrical, tunnel safety, welding, hydro-power, machining and more — but, according to the inspectors, the company hasn't taken these specialized skills into account when determining the wages and benefits for this workgroup.

The compensation concerns prompted PG&E Senior Power Generation Inspector James Novaes to reach out to IBEW 1245 to inquire about his team of inspectors joining the union in order to have a greater voice on the job.

The 1245 organizing team met with the inspectors in late November to learn more about the issues they face at work. This unit is comprised of 15 workers who are scattered all across the system, several of whom had been in labor unions previously. We listened as they explained why they believe their compensation is too low given their exceptional skillset, and they also told us about the issues they face with their travel assignments. Traveling is a significant part of the inspector classification, but the company routinely assigns jobs to inspectors who live over 100 miles away, when there are other inspectors who live in the area and are available to do the work. This avoidable travel is inefficient and puts a strain on the workgroup and their work/life balance. The inspectors also told us that they work along-side IBEW 1245 members every day and feel like they deserve the same contractual protections as their colleagues — and we couldn't agree more.

After securing majority support through union authorization cards, IBEW 1245

filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board on Feb. 12, 2024 to request a mail-in ballot union election (due to the unit members being in different locations). The ballots were mailed out a few weeks later, and on March 29, 2024, when the ballots were counted by the NLRB, the vote was unanimous — every single inspector who voted said "YES" to IBEW 1245.

We're pleased to congratulate this workgroup on their union election! In the coming weeks, we will be transitioning the unit over to the 1245 negotiations team to begin working on the agreement to accrete them into the existing 1245 bargaining unit at PG&E.

— Charlotte Stevens, IBEW 1245 Organizer

## *PG&E Electric Quality Control Specialists Ratify First Agreement*

On March 18, 2024, the Electric Quality Control Specialists at PG&E ratified their first IBEW 1245 union agreement. This classification voted to join 1245 in Sept of 2022, and after more than a year of negotiations, they are now officially a part of the 1245 physical bargaining unit.

Electric Quality Control Specialists Matt Atkins and Jake Kristy, along with IBEW 1245 staffers Bob Gerstle and Dave Sankey, joined me on the bargaining committee. I would like to thank them for their hard work to reach this newly ratified agreement.

We are pleased to welcome these 19 new members into our collective bargaining unit.

— Roberto Balistreri, IBEW 1245 Assistant Business Manager





# SERVICE AWARDS

## Eureka

March 29, 2024



### 30 Years

Front row, from left: Assistant Business Manager Roberto Balistreri. Back row, from left: Assistant Business Manager Mike Adayan, Kyle Kuttner, Business Rep Ray Banfil, Business Rep Sean Marsh and Business Rep Jerry Camacho

Photos by John Storey



### 15 Years

Front row, from left: Bryan Weaver, Jill Short and Ryan Cox. Back row, from left: (Banfil) and Jacob Wood



### 10 Years

Front row, from left: David Whitten and Communications Director Rebecca Band. Back row, from left: (Adayan) and (Camacho)

*Congratulations on your service!*



### 5 Years

Front row, from left: Cameron Olson, Rusty Berg, and Brian Phillips. Back row, from left: Kyle Crawford, (Balistreri), Mario Ruiz and Mason Monroe

## HONOREES

40 Years  
Walpole, James

35 Years  
Hanson, Scott  
Stotts, Eugene

30 Years  
Kuttler, Kyle

20 Years  
Aronson, Jon  
Baty, Kevin  
Evansizer, Richard  
Ponnay, Anthony  
Trumbo, Maurice

15 Years  
Cox, Ryan

Lorenc, Jill  
Myers, Troy  
Varela, Erick  
Weaver, Bryan  
Wood, Jacob

### 10 Years

Band, Rebecca  
Hansen, Derek  
McCovey, Romeo  
Phillis, Cohn  
Stevenson, Trent  
Urbina, Hugo  
Whitten, David

### 5 Years

Barry, Joshua  
Berg, Rusty  
Boren, Melynda

Branham, Thomas Jr.  
Calvo, Misty  
Crawford, Kyle  
Davis, Arnold III  
Franklin, Ross  
Johnson, Karen  
Kawelmacher, Dylan  
Marcuz, Brice  
McDonald, Bill Jr.  
Messinger, Ryan  
Monroe, Mason  
Olson, Cameron  
Phillips, Brian  
Ruiz, Mario  
Seabury, Jesse  
Sousa, Derek  
Thompson, Travis  
Wiseman, Clayton

## IN MEMORIAM

### Michael George Avedesian

From the family:

Michael George Avedesian of Fresno, CA passed away unexpectedly on April 21, 2024 at the youthful age of 44. A man of faith, loving father, devoted husband, and friend to all, Mike leaves behind a legacy of love, strength, and compassion.

Mike and his wife, Leslie, shared 14 cherished years of marriage, raising their beloved daughters, Annika (12) and Abigail (10). These girls have been the absolute joy of their lives. In his memory, this GoFundMe has been organized to support Leslie and the girls as they navigate this tragic loss.

Born and raised in Kingsburg, CA, to George and Anik Avedesian, Mike had three siblings — Jeff, Jackie, and Danielle. After graduating from Kingsburg High School, Mike attended Fresno State and worked various retail jobs. Mike met Leslie while they were both working at the Kingsburg Albertsons in 2004. They married in 2009 and

settled in Fresno. Soon after, Mike began his career with PG&E. He cherished his work relationships but always prioritized his family.

Annika and Abigail are active in theatre and the arts at Bullard Talent. Mike and Leslie have dedicated countless hours to these activities. From event setups to catering prep or shuttling kids around town (sometimes not even his own), Mike was always there to support them. He was always willing to step up and help out, reflecting his deep faith and commitment to serving others.

While Mike's loss can never be replaced, we hope his legacy will inspire his daughters to live life to the fullest and be a beacon of hope for others.

Donations to the family can be made using <https://www.gofundme.com/f/michael-george-avedesian>





## IN MEMORIAM

### Mike "Army" Armstrong

Mike "Army" Armstrong passed away on December 23, 2023. He was a proud veteran who was loved dearly by all his family and friends. He will be missed terribly.

Mike was born in Woodland, California on June 8th, 1944. He was a long-time employee of Sierra Pacific Power Co (now NV Energy), where he worked as a transmission lineman. *[Editor's Note: Brother Armstrong was initiated into IBEW 1245 in 1980, retired in 2006, but remained active in the union as a retiree until his passing].*



Mike Armstrong

His zest for life and infectious personality enabled him to be a friend to everybody, no matter if you knew him for 20 years or 20 minutes.

Mike enjoyed all the holidays, particularly Christmas and New Years, and he loved to travel, whether it be to Fort Bragg with Maria, over the hill to see his granddaughter's graduations, or to the Midwest to visit his grandsons. He also loved camping, fishing, Burning Man, a cold beer, a shot of Cuervo and just about any activity where a good time could be had.

With all that said, he loved his family most of all. He is survived by his long-time partner, Maria Dufur, daughters Carol Gebhardt and Devon Diamond, grandchildren Brandon, Damon, Kelly, Rhannon, Charlene and Morgan, and great-grandchildren Seth, Angel, Kellin and Jaynie.

A Celebration of Life was held March 14th.

— Cross-posted from the Reno Gazette Journal

## IN MEMORIAM

### Charles Love Aguilar

We deeply regret to announce the sudden passing of nine-year IBEW 1245 member Charles Love Aguilar, who worked for PG&E as a Working Foreman B with the Insulation and Coatings group. On Saturday Jan. 27, 2024, Brother Aguilar suffered a heart attack while playing basketball with his daughter, and tragically lost his life at the age of 46. He leaves behind four children, ages 9, 14, 21 and 29, and four grandchildren ages 2, 2, 3 and 12, along with his fiancé, who lost the love of her life.



Charles Love Aguilar

The family writes:

*Losing a dad so unexpectedly is something unimaginable, and something that will never be healed. This family will never be the same without him, and neither will anyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. He was so incredibly kind and caring, goofy and fun, and loving and hard working. He worked so hard every day of his life to build a better future and to support his family that he loved so much. His children and grandchildren have lost a father and Papa who was not only a dad, but also an amazing friend. They grieve for the loss of someone they shared so many amazing fun memories with ... He will be so deeply missed by every single person who knew him, and we hope that the memory of his kind wonderful soul will live on forever.*

Brother Aguilar was the sole financial provider for the family, and they could use our support during this heartbreaking time to assist with the cost of funeral arrangements, and to ease some of the financial uncertainty of life without him. Please donate what you can using <https://www.gofundme.com/f/grieving-the-unexpected-loss-of-a-father>

All proceeds will go to supporting his children, Aaliyah, Antonio, Charlie and Nas, his grandchildren, Jaliyah, Makayla, Ashtyn, Aryana, and his fiancé Ursula, through this tragic time.



View 1245 obituaries and death notices at <https://ibew1245.com/news/obituaries/>.

To submit an obituary, email [info@ibew1245.com](mailto:info@ibew1245.com)

## IN MEMORIAM

### Edward Charles Lenoir

With great sorrow, his family mourns the death of Edward Charles Lenoir, a remarkable person who enriched the lives of his family and friends.

Born in Sacramento in 1943, Lenoir was raised in Oak Park, graduated from Sac High and attended Sac City College. Predeceased by his parents, Emil C. Lenoir and Jane Buckman. Devoted husband of Karen Leschner-Lenoir for 62 years. Survived by a sister, Lona; sister-in-law, Linda; loving father of Jeff, Wendy (Brian) and Lance. Adored by seven grandchildren, Sean (Katie), Megan (Adam), Allie (Adam), Ian (Katie), Tara, and Zachary (Nereida), Gerrett; four great-grandchildren, Kylee, Ruby, Bishop, Everett; several cousins, nieces and nephews.

From the age of 19, he worked for P.G. & E. as a gas/serviceman for 35 years. Along with his service work, he was a IBEW Shop Steward 1245 for 11 years.

He adored teaching his grandsons to fish, fishing with his P.G. & E. buddies in Jackson Meadows. He loved coaching little league baseball for his son, playing blackjack and beach vacations. He valued relationships and the deep connections he had with family & friends. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed organizing annual golf tournaments for P.G. & E. (Capital Valley Golf Club) at the Lake Tahoe Country Club for 24 years.

His fight was valiant and his strength in the face of

adversity will always be a reminder of who he was, and his indomitable spirit continues to live on in the

hearts of those who loved him.

— Cross-posted from The Sacramento Bee



This image depicts Lenoir's union brothers and friends who predeceased him- Perry Zimmerman, Jerry Huck and Bob Renoude





Rick Shelton's winning photo



## Rick Shelton Wins Quarterly Photo Contest

Congrats to nine-year IBEW 1245 member Rick Shelton, who has won the IBEW 1245 quarterly photo contest! Brother Shelton works as a journeyman lineman for PG&E in San Rafael Division. He accepted his \$500 prize check at the 1245 Advisory Council meeting in Vacaville on April 27.

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](mailto:RGB1@ibew1245.com). Please put "Photo Contest" in the subject of the email, and include your full name and member number or date of birth to confirm eligibility.

Photo Contest winner Rick Shelton (center) with President Cecelia De La Torre and Business Manager Bob Dean at the April Advisory Council meeting

