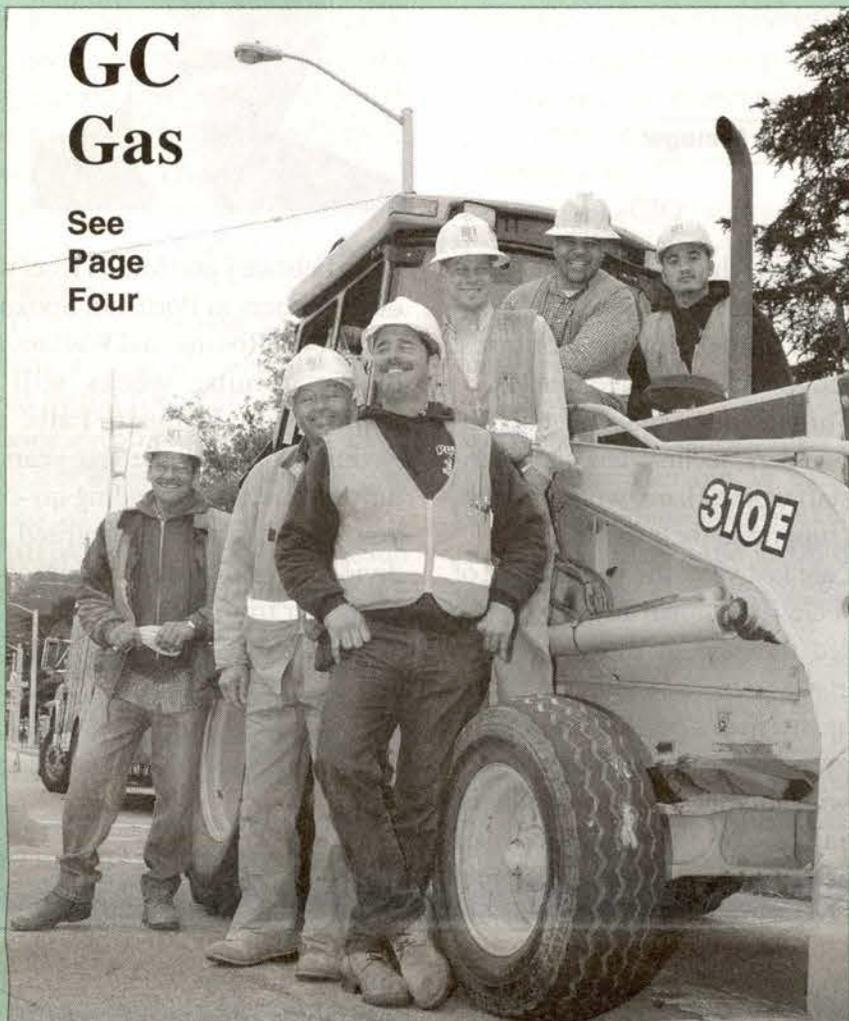


GC Gas

See Page Four



PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC

Union makes 'last, best' offer to Asplundh Tree

The Local 1245 Bargaining Committee gave its "last, best offer" to Asplundh Tree Expert Co. on March 23 after two days of negotiations assisted by a federal mediator.

"This is the last offer that our bargaining committee is willing to take to our members with a recommendation for approval," said Local 1245 Senior Business Rep. Ray Thomas. "The company has signed an agreement that they will let us know by April 4 whether they will accept or reject this last, best offer."

The current labor agreement between Local 1245 and Asplundh has been extended, with all its terms and conditions, to May 1.

In a sign of how seriously Asplundh is taking the negotiations, Greg Asplundh flew out from the East Coast to attend the final day of bargaining on March 23. Greg

Traducción al español, página 7.
 Spanish Translation, page 7.

Asplundh is the Western Region sponsor for the company that bears his family's name.

If Asplundh accepts the agreement, Thomas said the union intended to take the same agreement to members at Utility Tree and Trees Inc. for a vote.

For months Asplundh had refused to engage in serious negotiations for a new labor agreement with IBEW Local 1245, even with the intervention of the federal mediator.

According to Thomas, the company refused to deal with serious economic issues during negotiations on March 9 and 10.

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Schwarzenegger Pension Plan

'A full-throated assault on retirement security'

Arnold Schwarzenegger has generated a tsunami of protest with his proposal to demolish guaranteed pensions for public employees in California.

The governor has labeled his opponents as "special interests," but most Californians would give them another name: people. Those fighting back against the pension theft include police, firefighters, teachers, and other public workers, including members of IBEW Local 1245.

The pension privatization plan jeopardizes all of the state's public

workers by prohibiting guaranteed retirement plans, and mandating that retirement funds go into unpredictable private investments. Instead of basing retirement compensation on years of service, the governor wants to make workers gamble their future on the ups and downs of the market.

Employees who are already vested in the PERS system are at risk under Schwarzenegger's proposal, according to Local 1245 Business Rep. Jack Osburn.

"If the initiative that guts PERS is passed, the immediate threat to vested

employees is that there will be no 'new blood' moving into the PERS system. This creates a problem because it is the active employee contributions that fund cost of living adjustments (COLAs) for annuitants," said Osburn, who represents Local 1245 members at numerous public sector employers.

"That means that once you retire, even if the plan is otherwise solvent, your pension will be frozen at a given amount even though the cost

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Schwarzenegger's pension proposal draws protest from public employee at March 31 picket in San Francisco.

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Reno, NV**APRIL 15**Service Awards
Merced, CA**APRIL 16**Service Awards
Bakersfield, CA**APRIL 23**Steward Conference/Public Sector
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Darla Weaver (alternate)

T-Line Apprentice CommitteeEric Barron
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Joe Witte

YOUR UNION

Unity & courage on the pipeline

By Perry Zimmerman, Business Manager



This month I salute some of the best union members I have ever met.

Local 1245 has represented the workers on what we have always called the PGT pipeline that transports natural gas from the Canadian border to the California-Oregon border for more than 40 years. Twenty years ago the clerical workforce organized.

Change has always been part of life for our members on the pipeline. First came the move of the headquarters from San Francisco to Portland, Oregon. Then came a split from PG&E in which PGT was moved into the corporate side of PG&E. There, our PGT members became victim to astonishingly poor corporate management, first in Texas and later in Bethesda. Despite competent local management, the dedication of

our membership, and constant profits on the pipeline, disastrous decisions far from the Pacific Northwest forced layoffs and wage freezes.

Through all of this, the mechanics, welders, technicians, and clerical staff worked hard, worked smart, and supported their union.

Late last year, the bankruptcy of the PG&E National Energy Group forced the sale of the pipeline to TransCanada, a Calgary-based company with a portfolio including many natural gas pipelines and a growing number of power plants. Because of redundancy of clerical functions and a very different model for field operations than we have known, TransCanada over the last three months has announced a reduction in force of approximately half the bargaining unit.

In February and March I met with our members in Portland, Spokane, Sandpoint, Rosalia, and Wallula, and in the coming weeks will be traveling to Klamath Falls and Redmond. Given the ten years of turmoil and the impending lay-offs, you would expect a dispirited and divided workforce. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

I heard and saw nothing but unity and courage. There is no division among the workforce, even in the face of potentially divisive layoffs.

There was universal praise of the bargaining committee for their work on a new contract with TransCanada.

There was widespread appreciation of all that Local 1245 has accomplished, especially in the last two sets of bargaining.

Whether I was talking with a 35-year member who will be retiring with a handsome severance, a young member who has been through one previous layoff and will probably be laid off later this year, or a member who will be staying under new, unknown management, I found the same remarkable reaction. Whether retiring, being laid off, or staying, our members are moving on, and they have a deep appreciation of what they have accomplished through their union.

Perhaps this is because of the independent spirit of the northwest, coupled with the confidence found in highly skilled members, or perhaps because of the rank and file leadership that we have enjoyed on the pipeline since the days of Frank Locati.

Whatever the reason, our members on the TransCanada pipeline are inspiring. They are a visible reminder of the great principles underlying the labor movement.



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Our phone number is (707) 452-2700.

'Cost of Living' debate continues . . .

All PG&E employees need a raise

Editor's Note: The following e-mail was sent to Business Manager Perry Zimmerman and is reprinted with the author's permission.

Hi Perry,

As I was reading the high cost of living proposal, I noticed something odd. It seems once again certain work groups within PG&E feel that they are deserving of a high cost of living rate, and I believe they are.

But what about the other PG&E work groups in the same area? Are they not subjected to the same high cost of living in that area? Isn't one of the unions functions to promote equality? If you look at the cost of living in *all* of California and compare it to the rest of the western United States, I think you'll find that *all* PG&E employees are in need of a substantial raise!

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to look in Powerlineman Magazine (Volume 3, Issue 1, Page 20) to see wages of \$39.23 per hour offered by other western utilities. Yet we are still being told that we receive 5% more than other western utilities.

It is time to rectify this situation! This year is a wage reopener. Don't let us down!

Robert Francis
Templeton

Living where you work

Editor's Note: The following letter is excerpted from an e-mail sent to Business Manager Perry Zimmerman and is reprinted with the author's permission.

To Perry Zimmerman:

The issue of pay for those working in the S. F. Bay Area, and other expensive areas, is certainly an important one. How can PG&E expect employees to work in those areas if they are unable to afford to live in those areas? Long commutes detract from quality of life, and a response to

an emergency at their work location takes much longer than if the employee were able to live nearer. I don't see how PG&E can expect to have an adequate work force if they don't start paying more to employees in those high cost areas. On the other hand, I sure don't want wages for those in the less expensive areas to be lowered. Good luck as you continue to grapple with that issue.

David Bahr
Humboldt Bay Power Plant

Cost of Living Issue Won't Go Away

Editor's Note: The following e-mail was sent to Business Manager Perry Zimmerman and is reprinted with the author's permission.

Perry,

Please add my vote in favor of a cost of living arrangement for those of us members who live in the high-cost urban areas. Not only is housing more expensive, the cost of tolls is ever on the rise along with fuel costs. Hell, my van pool costs are \$107 per month and going up!

As a member of the Cost-of-Living Committee, I am well aware of the different regions of our territory and the numbers that support them. It is the only reasonable thing to do; seek an adjustment for the members in the high cost-of-living areas, namely the Bay Area.

I also know that it becomes a "red state" rather quickly as one passes over the Altamont pass and into the very conservative Central Valley regions. If I could do anything to help the union membership, it would be to expand the minds, through reading and more critical thinking, of the members who see this as an unfair issue. (Read and quit watching Fox news and voting Republican, as well.) As the fastest growing regions of California, these valley members will very soon have supporting arguments for regional cost-of-living adjustments themselves. How can we

get them to think outside the box?

I can go on and on. Please just consider my vote for the support of a cost-of-living increase for us Bay Area members. Our whole San Francisco workgroup is in step with this and it is an issue that will not go away anytime soon.

Thank you for your consideration.
Gene McCandless
San Francisco

Less Satisfying Lifestyle

To the Editor:

After reading the letters in the last Utility Reporter, in regards to the issue on the cost of living, I found that the membership had some great arguments for and against the idea of pay premiums. I myself have had many of these same feelings on this subject. Although this is a complex and difficult issue, I believe it can be summed up with one word. That word is, lifestyle!

Having worked in the Bay Area twice during my career at PG&E, I can tell you that it is really that simple. Since the time I have left the commute and the Bay Area behind, I have met many more people who either grew up in the Bay Area, worked there, or both. When you ask them why they relocated, they almost always state the high cost of housing and living, but it is shortly followed by a list of many other reasons.

Many of the reasons stated had to do with crime, traffic, declining schools, noise pollution, cultural differences, etc. The point I am making is that the high cost of housing is only one of many reasons that people don't want to live there anymore, or don't want to commute there to work.

If a union brother lives and works in the big city, or is transferred there, or is forced to commute there, then they are forced to, or have chosen to, live and work in an environment that most would consider a lesser lifestyle. For those of us who have chosen to



Speak Out!

Got something to share with your fellow Local 1245 members? Send letters (with name and phone number) to:

Utility Reporter Letters
IBEW 1245
PO Box 2547
Vacaville, CA 95696

Note: We can't print personal attacks on members or letters dealing with union politics. Opinions expressed in Speak Out are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IBEW Local 1245.



live in rural areas and in smaller towns, we have done so with the understanding of having a better lifestyle and sometimes lower pay. Even a union brother, who bought his house twenty years ago in the Bay Area at a reasonable price, must still deal with the day-to-day lifestyle decline of living in the big city.

So I ask, what is wrong with rewarding or compensating a member for remaining in, and working in an area that has less of a satisfying lifestyle? In the past, I have talked to union members from other trades, and some of them receive premium pay for work in the big city.

Jeff Torres
City of Redding Electric



Field Person Lolo Kefu

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO.

GC Gas

A PG&E General Construction crew under Joseph Lusk was at work on gas pipeline replacement near the intersection of Page and Stanyan in San Francisco in February. The crew was locating the depth of the water services to avoid possible conflicts with the bore path of the four-inch high pressure plastic gas main being installed. The long-term project is replacing a low-pressure system with a safer high-pressure system.



At left is Miscellaneous Equipment Operator Gilberto Suarez. At right is Utility Worker Hope Nguyen. Below is Utility Worker Terry Gallagher (with shovel) and Backhoe Operator Chester Young.



Gas talks conclude without compensation agreement

By Keith Hopp, Aaron Leatherman, John Petrovitz & Mike Scafani

In 2000, the union and company formed a committee to review and make adjustments to Title 200 Job Definitions and Lines of Progression (JDLOP), Exhibit VI, 100.1. The union interest was to bring Title 200 Gas Journeyman rates into parity with other Journeymen rates as well as reviewing many issues and contract proposals that had been generated by the rank and file over the past two decades. Through negotiation with the company minor adjustments were made to Gas Department Job Definitions and Lines of Progression. However, no compensation improvements were made to the Gas Journeyman classification.

During the 2003 contract negotiations the general negotiating committee received many proposals from the Gas Department members at their unit meetings. The union and the company agreed to establish an Ad Hoc committee to review the issues and interests of the Gas Department members. The union's committee included Assistant Business Manager Jim McCauley and the authors of this article: Gas Department members Keith Hopp from Sacramento, John Petrovitz from San Francisco, Aaron Leatherman from Modesto and Mike Scafani from Petaluma.

The committee's role was to create proposals based on the Gas Department employees' demands.

Company and union met in February 2005 to exchange proposals. Union's committee drafted a 26-page proposal which was presented to the company with the objective of achieving parity between Title 200 Gas T&D Department with other OM&C departments, and responding to changes in business processes within the Gas T&D Department, as well as recognizing new and changing business needs of the company.

Union proposed the following additions and adjustments to the Title 200 Gas T & D department job definitions, lines of progression, reverse lines of progression and wage rates.

It is also our intent to adjust classifications within the department, realigning journeymen rates into proper relationship with the remainder of the OM&C departments.

1. Increase job definition for Journeyman classifications to capture New Business efficiencies.

2. Increase Gas Crew Foreman and Fitter wages to bring them in parity with Underground Construction Foreman and Underground Construction Journeyman.

3. Increase Gas Mechanic wages to Gas Crew Foreman wages to reflect the skills and responsibilities of the position.

4. Bring Equipment Operator equal to other OM&C Equipment Operator level with added job duties.

5. Implement welding premiums for maintaining Arc qualifications; increase 2.5% for under 20 Arc welding qualification and 5% for over 20 Arc welding qualification.

6. Implement 5% premium pay for respirator qualifications.

7. Increase wages, job duties and responsibilities of the Fieldman classification.

The company made a single proposal to create a new classification entitled New Business Fitter. This new position would have the same duties and responsibilities as a Fitter. In addition, the company proposed working alone or with an assistant to install new business residential service connections for Gas and Electric. Company offered a 5% rate increase for this new classification.

The union rejected company's proposal, as it amounted to an 8% decrease in pay for Gas Department employees currently performing Gas Department service completions. The company rejected all union proposals with no counter proposal offers. They indicated there was no need to continue negotiations at this time.

The committee members wish to share their disappointment in this negotiating effort. The committee believes there is currently great opportunity for both sides to capture improvements that would benefit both company and union. Understanding that quite a bit of effort will be needed in a reform endeavor for Title 200 Gas, we are not only willing to take on the task, but are eager to do so.

Mac's IBEW legacy spans five decades

To Jim "Mac" McCauley, the Local 1245 Assistant Business Manager who retires in April, every issue was a major issue.

"Every committee he serves on, every conference he goes to he believes is important and he makes you feel they're important, too," said Sam Tamimi, who most recently has served as a fellow Assistant Business Manager but can remember back to his days at PG&E when McCauley was his Business Representative.

Few members have held as many positions in Local 1245 as McCauley, a 45-year union member who became a steward in 1968, served as a unit chair, represented the East Bay on the Advisory Council, won election to the Executive Board in 1986, and served as vice president from 1989 until 2001.

During his first stint on the Local 1245 staff, from 1977-1980, McCauley served members in the East Bay.

In 2001 McCauley returned to

the staff as an Assistant Business Manager under Perry Zimmerman.

"I really appreciate Jim's efforts on behalf of this union," said Zimmerman. "He's always worked hard to make a difference."

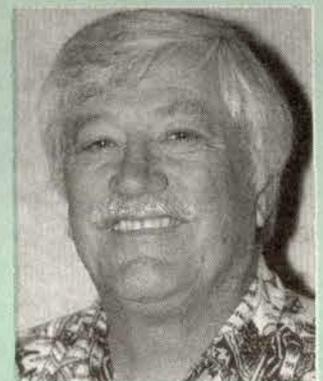
One of McCauley's passions has been apprenticeship. As Apprenticeship Coordinator he not only worked to overhaul about a dozen different apprenticeships, he also made it a point to personally meet nearly every apprentice.

"I tried to make sure they got a fair shake," he said.

Another priority for McCauley has been staffing at PG&E.

"I wanted to stop the bleeding in the (PG&E) Gas Department," he said, noting that in 1969 he was one of 53 light crew foremen out of 367 employees in the Oakland Gas Department. "Now there's only 30 something."

Through political action, McCauley was also engaged in the larger issues confronting the union and its members. He headed the union's political action committee



Jim McCauley

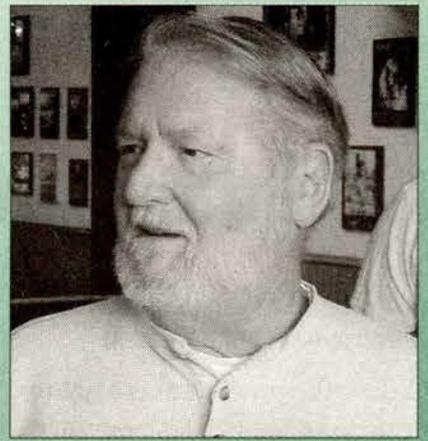
during tumultuous years that included attacks on overtime pay and worker safety, as well as local municipalization initiatives that threatened hundreds of PG&E jobs.

But even when those issues have long faded from memory, people will always remember Jim McCauley as a union leader who was genuinely a "people person."

"Jim McCauley is one of the most kind and positive people I ever met. He is a class act," says Tamimi, who adds with a smile, "and I believe a lot of it comes from his better half, Margie McCauley."

Master of the agreement

Frank 'Dad' Saxsenmeier retires from Local 1245 staff



By Eric Wolfe

He may not be quite as old as Father Time, his eyes may twinkle a little less than Santa Claus, but the man they call "Dad" around the union hall has achieved a legendary status all his own.

When Frank Saxsenmeier retires this month at age 67, Local 1245 will lose a consummate craftsman. His craft was people.

"Joe Valentino called Frank 'the Dad,'" said Assistant Business Manager Sam Tamimi. "Every time you go to him he gives you his infinite wisdom."

Saxsenmeier's wisdom may fall a bit short of infinite, but there is no doubting that "the Dad" has become one of the great masters of the PG&E labor agreement. It was a mastery gained on the job as a business rep in the North Bay, East Bay and his native San Francisco.



Early "Dad"

On one occasion he turned a \$37 grievance into a \$400,000 settlement for 30 employees on a dispute over temporary assignments. In a less pleasurable case, he represented a female employee who had stabbed a co-worker with a pencil.

"I asked her what she told the company," Saxsenmeier said. "She said, 'I told them I stabbed a guy three times with a pencil and was glad I did it.' I said, 'Don't tell them any more, you've said enough.'"

In 2001, Saxsenmeier became a senior business rep with responsibility for the Fact Finding level of the grievance procedure. Last fall, Perry Zimmerman promoted Saxsenmeier to assistant business manager.

"I was very impressed with Frank when I met him in 1978 on a Gas Serviceman committee. The longer I've been around him the more impressed I've gotten," said Zimmerman. "Lo-

cal 1245 members will miss him because of his knowledge and understanding of the labor agreement. I will miss him for that, and I will also miss him as a friend."

Saxsenmeier learned unionism at home. His father, an organizer for the Letter Carriers, confronted young Frank when he came home after his first day of work at PG&E in 1959.

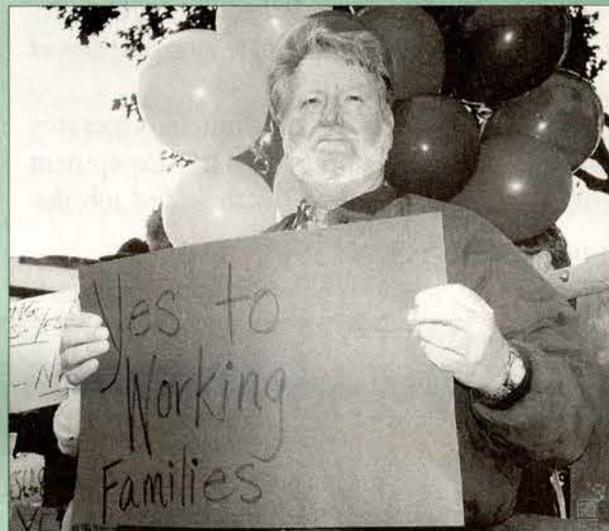
"Dad asked me if I joined the union," Saxsenmeier recalled. "I said I didn't have to join for six months. My dad said fine, if I didn't have a union card the next day, 'Don't bother coming home.'"

There was no way to get a card that fast, but the next day Frank got a steward to write a note to his father saying he had joined.

Saxsenmeier, who became a steward in 1969, said he was greatly influenced by two business reps: Larry Foss and Frank Quadross.

"Quadross never left the Marine division. He attacked, he attacked, he attacked and he attacked," Saxsenmeier recalled. "Larry was smooth, diplomatic, effective, compromising, efficient"—characteristics many people would probably attribute to Saxsenmeier as well.

Another of his qualities is, well, frankness. His plain-spoken manner, coupled with his deep understanding of the labor agreement, made him a formidable player in labor-management relations.



Saxsenmeier learned unionism at a young age and never strayed.

Tamimi compared him to Robert Byrd, the long-serving West Virginia Senator with an incomparable mastery of the US Constitution.

"Frank is the same way with the agreement. Frank will show you the agreement, read every word to you and tell you exactly what it means," said Tamimi.

PG&E wasn't the only place where Saxsenmeier enforced labor agreements. His assignment areas since coming on staff in 1978 included the City of Oakland, Port of Oakland, Alameda Power and Telecom, City of Berkeley, AC Transit, City of Willits, City of Santa Clara, City of Healdsburg, Davey Tree, and Northern California Power Agency.

As he prepares to leave, Saxsenmeier believes the greatest challenge facing Local 1245 is member complacency.

"They don't know how they got the things they have," he said. "The company did not give you retirement, a living wage, hospitalization—you got it because at one time there was a group of people who didn't have what you have and they needed it and wanted it and fought for it for many years."

Strong words. But then, Frank is frank.

'The Dad' has become one of the great masters of the PG&E labor agreement. It was a mastery gained on the job as a Business Rep in the North Bay, East Bay and his native San Francisco.



The look that won a thousand grievances.

Union gives Asplundh Tree a 'last, best offer'

► From Page 1

Negotiations between the company and union began Dec. 1, 2004, just one month prior to the Jan. 2, 2005 expiration date of the agreement. The late start to negotiations came in spite of Local 1245's offer to begin the talks at an earlier date.

When Asplundh finally came to the table, it did so with a vengeance. The company put forward proposals to eliminate employee seniority provisions, cut wages, increase employee health care premium contributions, eliminate Paid Time Off for vacation, and cut vacation accrual to a maximum of two weeks instead of the current three, according to Thomas.

Thomas said the Asplundh membership had been strongly supportive of the union bargaining committee during the negotiations and that interest had been running high among members at other line clearance tree trimming companies as well.

Some of the more senior members recall the Asplundh lockout and strike of 1992, said Thomas, when the company attempted to impose dramatic wage cuts. When union members were locked out, Local 1245 organized a strike that effectively shut down Asplundh's tree trimming operation, which in turn prompted PG&E to terminate its contract with Asplundh. Most striking Local 1245 members subsequently found jobs with the union contractor



Bargaining for the union at Asplundh Tree are, from left, Foreman Sergio Munoz, Foreman Mike Cochran, Senior Business Rep. Ray Thomas and Business Rep. Junior Ornelas.

that took over the work.

"The people who remember that strike are asking how they can help

the members who are working for Asplundh now," Thomas said. "It's really brought us together."

El sindicato le entrega a Asplundh su "ultima y mejor" oferta

El Comité Negociador del Local 1245 le presentó el 23 de marzo su "última y mejor" oferta a Asplundh Tree Expert Co., después de dos días de negociaciones con la asistencia de un mediador federal.

"Esta es la última oferta que nuestro comité negociador está dispuesto a llevar hasta nuestros miembros con una recomendación de aprobación", dijo el Representante Principal de Negocios del Local 1245, Ray Thomas. "La compañía ha firmado un acuerdo por el cual nos dejarán saber el 4 de abril si van a aceptar o rechazar esta última y mejor oferta".

El presente contrato laboral entre el Local 1245 y Asplundh ha sido extendido, con todos sus términos y condiciones, hasta el 1° de mayo.

Como una indicación de la seriedad con que Asplundh está tomando las negociaciones, el Sr. Greg Asplundh viajó desde la costa del este para asistir al último día de negociaciones, el 23 de marzo. Greg Asplundh es responsable de la Región Occidental de la compañía que lleva el nombre de su familia.

Si Asplundh acepta el contrato, el Sr. Thomas dijo que el sindicato tiene la intención de llevar ese mismo contrato a los miembros de Utility Tree y Trees, Inc., y someterlo a votación.

Durante varios meses, Asplundh se ha negado a participar en serias negociaciones para llegar a un nuevo contrato con el Local 1245 de la IBEW, aún con la intervención de un mediador federal.

Según el Sr. Thomas, la compañía rehusó a negociar serios aspectos económicos durante las negociaciones del 9 y 10 de marzo.

Las negociaciones entre la compañía y el sindicato comenzaron el 1° de diciembre del año 2004, justamente un mes antes de la fecha de expiración del contrato, el 2 de enero, 2005. La demora en comenzar las negociaciones ocurrió a pesar de la oferta del Local 1245 de comenzar las negociaciones en una fecha más temprana.

Cuando Asplundh finalmente se sentó a la mesa, lo hizo realmente en forma muy agresiva. La compañía presentó propuestas para eliminar las provisiones de antigüedad de los empleados, reducir los salarios, aumentar las contribuciones de los empleados al costo de su seguro médico, eliminar el uso de "Paid Time Off" (Tiempo sin trabajar con pago) para vacaciones y reducir la acumulación de días de vacaciones a un máximo de dos semanas, en lugar de las presentes tres semanas, según dijo el Sr. Thomas.

El Sr. Thomas dijo que los miembros que trabajan con Asplundh

han apoyado enérgicamente al comité negociador del sindicato durante las negociaciones y que el interés ha sido muy alto entre los miembros que trabajan para otras compañías que podan árboles alrededor de las líneas eléctricas.

Algunos de los miembros con mayor antigüedad recuerdan el cierre de Asplundh y la huelga de 1992, dijo el Sr. Thomas, cuando la compañía trató de imponer reducciones muy drásticas de salarios. Cuando la compañía no permitió que los miembros fueran a trabajar, el Local 1245 organizó una huelga que terminó efectivamente las operaciones de poda de árboles de Asplundh y forzó a PG&E a terminar su contrato con Asplundh. La mayoría de los miembros del Local 1245 que participaron en la huelga, eventualmente consiguieron trabajo a través del sindicato con el nuevo contratista que recibió el contrato de PG&E.

"Las personas que recuerdan esa huelga están preguntando en que forma pueden ayudar a los miembros que trabajan actualmente para Asplundh", dijo el Sr. Thomas. "Esto nos ha unido a todos realmente".

Line Clearance Tree Trimmers Stewards Conference

Weakley Hall

30 Orange Tree Circle
Vacaville, California

June 4, 2005



45 Years



40 Years

Former Business Manager Jack McNally and Clyde Stribling receive 45-year awards from Business Manager Perry Zimmerman.

Jam
year
Zim



30 Years



25 Years



Local 1245 On-Line: ♦ On



s Fousom and R.C. Woodbury receive 40-awards from Business Manager Perry arman.

35 Years



The Honorees



60 Years
Czayo, Frank E.

55 Years
Pritchard, James
Rockhill, Donovan
Rowe, Kenneth L.
Sedgley, Fred L.

50 Years
Ables, Deairl R.
Conrad, Thomas
Evans, Thomas E.
Tuck, William E.

45 Years
McCauley, Jim
McNally, Jack
Stribling, Clyde

40 Years
Choate, Robert
Felkins, Paul
Folsom, James
Knecht, Leonard R
Krusi, Peter
Kuhn, James
Mitchell, Daniel P
Nightingale, Randy
Ruggles, John
Smith, William E
Steever, Robert
Woodbury, R. C.



35 Years
Bailey, Alfred
Barnes, Walter
Barnes, Steven
Bartley, Louis
Bell, Douglas
Christianson, Art
Clark, Alan
Dixon, Thelma
Donker, John
Dufur, Wayne

Erickson, Terry
Espersen, Fred
Follett, Clay
Green, Charles
Harper, Jesse
Hopp, Mark
King, Michael
Marcantelli, Richard
Martinez, Roy
Mason, Ron
Mays, Jim
McAlister, Charles
McCarty, Michael
McLaughlin, Harry
McRae, Craig
Mercer, Norman
Mikaelsen, Gary
Miller, Steven
Muller, Bruce
Murray, Arthur D.
Nakashima, Sam
Norris, Darryl
Osburn, Jack
Pedroia, Howard
Piazza, Alan
Pierce, Joseph R.
Regner, Robert P.
Soto, Louis
Takao, Arthur
Thompson, Wayne
Vidales, John
Weathers, Lonnie
Wicker, Brent

30 Years
Amarelo, David
Barry, Lonnie
Bartucco, Eugene
Brewster, Dean
Brock, Kelly
Callahan, John
Cervantes, Edward
Cervantes, Thomas
De Silva, Ronald
Edgar, Roy
Evans, Niel

Flores, Guillermo
Gacutan, Patricia
Garcia, Douglas
Green, Bruce
Guerrero, Joaquin
Hannan, Raymond
Harness, Ken
Higgins, Dianne
Hughes, Patrick
Johnson, Eugene
Keikon, Bruce
Kieft, John
Larue, Edward
McKay, Michael
Morgan, Ronald
Navarrete, Paul
Payawal, Abraham
Perez, Thomas
Quiroz, Carmen
Ricker, Norma
Riddle, Thomas
Robertson, Frank
Rochholz, Larry
Sanchez, Garry
Sevart, Ivan
Sherman, William
Sohnrey, Mark
Souza, Tod
Terrell, Linda
Thompson, Keith
Valdez, Eduardo
Vaquero, Nicholas
Watt, James
West, Arnold
Wilbur, Michael
Yee, Thomas

25 Years
Albers, Terry
Amaral, Deborah
Barrera, Henry
Barrow, Russell
Bennett, Timothy
Betteridge, Clinton
Bittner, Daniel
Boykin, Charrise
Bravos, Jeanne
Burlison, Harvey
Burns, Larry
Cantrell, Jennifer

Carnesi, George
Carrasco, Albert
Celosse, Eric
Chambers, Bradford
Coleman, Thomas
Correia, Martin
Coughlin, Patrick
Cranor, Michael
Crawford, Pamela
Culver, Thomas
De Arcos, Richard
Diregolo, Gwen
Duarte, Jeffery
Dube, Marc
Dugal, Stephen
Dutton Jr., Bobby R
Ferguson, Terri
Finato, Robert
Fox, Albert
Friesen, Robin
Garcia, David
Garcia, Michael
Gerstle, Bob
Gilmore, Michael
Goody, Gary
Guerrero, Hector
Halbert, Daniel
Hale, Robert
Hardison, James
Helmstreit, Joe
Helmstreit, Juliet
Henkel, Steven
Hensley, Carmon
Hern, Keith
Himman, Theodore
Hines, Keith
Holt, Charles
Hopkins, George
Jackman, Harry
Jobe, Ronald
Jones, Bryon
Jurkiewicz, James
Knudson, Ronald
Lemus, Luis
Lentz, William
Lewis, Timothy
Lomba, Aires
Lombardo, Mary
Mader, Mike
Martinez, Pete

Mayes, Donald
McKinney, Earl
Mendoza, Fernando
Monahan, Richard
Morgan, Gerald
Morris, Thomas
Moya, John
Natad, Gerald
Nelson, Chris
Neuburger, Donna
Northcutt, Michael
O'Sullivan, Kevin
Paneda, John
Parra, Thomas
Perez, Guadalupe
Pittman, Kirk
Pitto, Randy
Pratt, Dennis
Preciado, Robert
Prior, Barry
Quintana, Ronald
Reaves, Kathy
Reishus, David
Robinson, Michael
Robinson, Jackie
Roman, Kenny
Rugney, Rebecca
Sanchez, Robert
Seaton, Steve
Smethurst, Kevin
Soares, Robin
Sowden, Deborah
Stinson, Michael
Stoner, Jeffrey
Strickland, Ricky
Tuttle, Ronald
Uschmann, Robert
Villalpando, Jose
Walukones, Allan
Wells, John G
Werth, Cheri
Westphal, John
Weyrens, Susan
Whisler, Jerry
Whitmore, Lloyd
Winkler, Tony
Withey, Daniel P
Wix, Mark K.
Woodard, David G
Zickowski, Edward

the Internet: www.ibew1245.com

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SB 840 offers solution to health care crisis

As the health care crisis continues to leave more than 6 million Californians without health insurance—and shifts costs onto the backs of employees—California legislators have introduced a bill to provide statewide insurance coverage and free choice of doctors.

The California Health Insurance Reliability Act of 2005, SB 840, would cover every Californian with comprehensive health insurance and guarantee their right to choose their own physician, while containing the cost of health care.

“The system is broken and tinkering won’t fix it. We’re beyond the point of cosmetic surgery. What we need is a cure,” said Senator Sheila Kuehl, the bill’s principal author.

By slashing administrative costs of health insurance and utilizing California’s purchasing power to buy drugs and medical equipment in bulk, SB 840 would save an estimated \$25 billion in statewide healthcare spend-

ing—in the first year alone.

Local 1245 welcomed the legislature’s initiative.

“The health care crisis has become one of the greatest challenges facing this union,” said Local 1245 Business Manager Perry Zimmerman. “Every time we sit down to bargain a contract, we are confronted by our employers with the rising cost of health care. This problem has become too large to solve at the bargaining table alone and we are glad that the legislature has the courage to tackle this very difficult issue.”

According to a model relied on by the legislature, it is possible to insure all state residents with full coverage that includes high quality medical, dental, vision, hospitalization and prescription drug benefits by streamlining the process of reimbursement. Means-based premiums, assessed according to income and payroll, would replace all premiums,



deductibles, co-pays and out of pocket expenses.

The vast majority of individuals, families and businesses that pay for insurance would save money while receiving better coverage, according to SB 840 proponents.

A new report from Boston University concluded that about 50% of health care spending is wasted on unnecessary clinical and administrative costs, insurance company profits, and excessive pharmaceutical prices in the US.

Governor’s plan ‘a full-throated assault on retirement security’

► From Page 1

of living will invariably continue to increase. So, while you may be able to afford to retire at age 55, you may find yourself at age 65 or 70 with too little to make ends meet.”

(Local 1245 members who want to protest Schwarzenegger’s plan can e-mail him via the union’s website at www.ibew1245.com. Just click on the “Action Squad” icon.)

There is opposition to the governor’s plan even among the public employers who are responsible for paying into the current retirement system. Counties are against Schwarzenegger’s proposal because it would cost millions to implement, could hurt employee retention and could leave the existing pension system in debt in the future, according to Steve Keil, legislative director of the group representing counties.

The University of California system and organizations representing police and fire chiefs have come out against the idea, saying it could hurt their ability to attract employees.

Perhaps the biggest blow to the plan has come from frontline police and firefighters, who say it would end death and disability benefits for public safety officers hired after June 2007.

Schwarzenegger canceled a meeting on March 28 with two widows, police union officials said, after the women participated in radio ads saying the governor’s plan “will hurt the families of those who die keeping California safe.”

Tammy Monego, whose husband was shot dead by a robbery suspect in 1998, is one of the widows Schwarzenegger declined to meet.

“I was certainly willing to sit and speak with him, but apparently my

verbal discontent has offended him in some manner,” Monego, 39, told the Los Angeles Times.

Currently, public employees get a guaranteed pension amount when they retire. If the financial markets or the state’s fiscal health heads south, taxpayers pick up the difference to pay the guaranteed benefits.

Under Schwarzenegger’s plan, the guaranteed amount would be eliminated and replaced with a 401(k)-type system, although the details haven’t been spelled out.

Death and disability benefits are considered a defined benefit and would be eliminated under the governor’s plan, according to the state attorney general’s office.

The 30,000-member California Professional Firefighters union has called Schwarzenegger’s plan a “full-throated assault on retirement security ... that guarantees profits for

Wall Street.” Spokesman Carroll Wills said the governor has alienated his group, which internal surveys show is 55% Republican or independents who “lean Republican.”

California isn’t the first state to contemplate private accounts for public employee pensions. Nebraska instituted private accounts for public employees in the early 1960s, but discontinued the plan for new employees in 2003 after it was revealed that individuals consistently did worse than the state pension programs run by professional managers.

“Frankly, people have too many other things to do than manage money. They are busy working and taking kids to soccer games and Cub Scouts,” Anna Sullivan, the executive director of Nebraska’s Public Employee Retirement Systems, told USA Today.

Four-year pact at Modesto Irrigation District

Local 1245 members at Modesto Irrigation District have ratified a four-year agreement that improves wages and pensions.

Although Local 1245 has bargained on behalf of some MID employees for many years, this was the first negotiations since employees in three separate units at the District last year selected Local 1245 as their official bargaining agent.

The agreement provides wage increases of 3% on Dec. 1, 2004, 3% on Dec. 1, 2005, 3.25% on Dec. 1, 2006, and 3.75% on Dec. 1, 2007.

Pensions are improved under the new pact. Effective Jan. 1, 2006, the old 2% at age 62 formula will improve to 2% at 55 and 2.75% at 60. The agreement also contains changes on how pensions are calculated for employees hired on or after Jan. 1, 2006.

Employees will have to shoulder a larger share of medical premiums under the new agreement. However, the union negotiated an opt-out provision that allows an employee to be

covered under their spouse's medical plan and receive 50% of the monthly premium on their paycheck that the District no longer has to pay for their medical coverage.

According to Business Rep. Lynne Morel, bargaining was a cooperative effort among all three groups represented by Local 1245.

"This was the first time we negotiated for the three separate groups. We had to be respectful of the fact that we needed to represent the interests of all three."

To accomplish this, a committee with representatives from all three groups was established to negotiate core issues. Serving on this committee were Jeffrey States, representing Professional and Supervisory employees; Karri Daves and Denise Miller, representing Administrative, Technical and Clerical employees; and Kurt Celli, Steve Aldridge and Forrest Mouw, representing Utility Service and Maintenance employees.

Four additional employees served

as alternates to assist with the Utility Service and Maintenance negotiations: Mike Quigley, Ed Cox, Forrest Davisson, and Mike Stout, who also represents MID employees on the Local 1245 Advisory Council.

The committee members and alternates worked for months to prepare for negotiations, while at the same time assisting with the organizing drive that resulted in MID's recognition of the three bargaining units, according to Morel.

Success in the negotiations required each group to recognize that they needed to achieve the best deal possible for the entire membership and not allow interests particular to one work group or classification break down their overall unity.

According to Morel, the members rose to this challenge and were unshakeable in their unity. "They were a fantastic group," she said.

The agreement also provided improvements in the dental plan and in educational and professional development.

Unit updates

Unit 3316, Fallon, has a new Chair, Charles Robertson, and a new Vice Chair, Reto Gross. All other meeting information remains the same.

Randy Osborn
Business Rep.

Unit 2518, Modesto Irrigation District, has a new location: IBEW Local 684, 519 12th St., Modesto, CA. The meeting time has been changed from 4:30 to 5:30 pm.

Lynne Morel,
Business Rep.

Notice PG&E Apprentices

When you go for training at PG&E's Livermore training facility, you are entitled to expenses and travel time at the straight rate of pay. Expense vouchers will be made available to you at the training center, as well as a write-up of the relevant provisions of Title 201 and Title 301. Many apprentices are now utilizing the Livermore facility—make sure you get your proper compensation for expenses and travel time!

Local 1245 Outside Construction report

In the four or so weeks ending March 28, we had about 56 calls for Journeyman Lineman, 8 for Equipment Specialist, 35 for Groundman, zero for Cable Splicers and 7 Underground Techs.

The books, as of Feb. 5:

Journey Lineman, Book 1: 13
Journey Lineman, Book 2: 4
Lineman, Book 3: 3
Lineman, Book 4: 4
Equipment Specialist, Book 1: 8
Equipment Specialist, Book 2: 2
Equipment Specialist, Book 3: 1
Groundman, Book 1: 8
Groundman, Book 2: 4
Groundman, Book 3: 28
Groundman, Book 4: 56
Cable Splicer, Book 1: 0
Cable Splicer, Book 2: 0
Cable Splicer, Book 3: 1

Outside Agreement: 51 crews working.

Underground Agreement: 20 crews working.

The Jefferson-Martin 230KV underground project is going with

Mueller pipeliners doing segment 1 and 5 with 10 crews; Par just starting segment 2 and 4 with 5 crews. Segment 3 has not been awarded yet.

Pole and Test Agreement: total is 33 crews.

Teledata Agreement: total is 8 crews.

A total of 127 crews are working on the Outside.

JATC: The new building is completed. We moved in February. Currently we have 248 apprentices. Two are traveling, 29 are working out of Local 1245; 199 are working out of Local 47; 8 are working out of Local 396 and 12 are laid off due to various reasons. Ten apprentices have passed their test and are journeyman linemen.

Sierra Pacific: Sturgeon Electric has been awarded the Fort Churchill to Buckeye 120 KV Transmission Line in Yerington, NV to Minden,

NV, approximately 36 miles of steel and wood pole H structures.

San Francisco NECA: We are negotiating on the Light Rail Agreement. We are also in negotiations with Republic Electric for Street Light and Signal Work Agreement.

Other:

• The next Joint Safety meeting is May 18.

• On April 13 we will give the Journeyman Lineman Exam.

• We are trying to rename the Equipment Specialist to Line Equipment Specialist, in hopes we can get it listed with DIR prevailing rate.

• I have been in contact with NEBF about a pre-retirement seminar to help our brothers and sisters plan for retirement. A tentative date has been set for Sept. 10.

• The Cal-Nev JATC is trying to get credited to give the Crane Certification Course.

Dave Crawford,
Business Rep.

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Information
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WOMEN WORKERS' HISTORY

Organizing the Women

When Elizabeth Christman took the floor at the 1933 convention of the American Federation of Labor, she already had years of experience behind her as a union activist and officer.

She had helped to organize Operators Local 1 of the International Glove Workers Union and served as shop steward, local, treasurer and president. For 15 years she had been secretary-treasurer of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and was now an ILWU vice president.



She was addressing the AFL convention in 1933 on behalf of the Women's Trade Union League.

Organize the women, she said, the five million women in industry. Organize: "The legions of women barbers, hairdressers, manicurists, bakery workers, retail clerks, electrical manufacturing employees, hotel and restaurant workers and many others."

President Roosevelt's New Deal had created new opportunities for organizing. Inequities existed in the president's National Recovery Act and, Christman said, "legions of unorganized workers are suddenly realizing that, without the backing of unions, they haven't the ghost of a chance to get justice under certain codes and in fighting 'chiselers.'"

Working women's stake in minimum wage hike

George W. Bush has shown little interest in adjusting the minimum wage. Working women have a large interest in changing the president's mind on this subject.

If Bush takes no action during his second term, this country will have completed an 11-year record stretch without any adjustment in the minimum wage. The current federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour is over 40% below the 1968 level adjusted for inflation. A fulltime worker taking no vacation or holidays and earning the federal minimum wage earns 55% of the federal poverty line for a family of four and a much smaller percentage of what it takes to actually pay the rent and basic living expenses in most parts of the country.

Such a worker qualifies for much of what remains of public support and assistance, placing the burden on taxpayers to pick up where employers fail to pay a living wage.

As many as 15 million workers—12.5% of the workforce—could be positively impacted by a \$7 minimum wage; 7.4 million minimum wage workers would receive a direct raise, while another 8.2 million workers earning near the minimum wage are likely to benefit indirectly.

A \$7 minimum wage would lift a low-income family of four out of poverty, according to Eileen Appelbaum of Rutgers University and a team of researchers who studied the problem last year.

"An increase in the minimum wage to \$7, combined with the Earned Income Tax Credit, Food Stamps, and the Child Tax Credit would raise such a family's earnings to 108% of the poverty line," the study found.

Critical for Working Women

Increasing the minimum wage is a critical issue for working women. Even though women make up only 48% of the workforce, 61% of direct

beneficiaries of a minimum wage increase would be women. About 1.4 million working mothers would receive a direct raise and three million working mothers could be positively impacted by a minimum wage hike.

In the absence of federal action to hike the minimum wage, many states have stopped waiting around and are beginning to take action on their own.

"Living wage" laws have now been enacted in 123 cities and counties. Thirty-one of the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, have either set a minimum wage higher than the federal level or have had bills introduced in their legislatures this year that would do so. Fourteen of these, plus D.C., have already created minimum wage levels higher than the federal, or—in the case of Florida—have put the law on the books though it has yet to take effect.

Voters in Nevada passed a minimum wage increase by ballot initiative last November that included indexing to the cost of living. Initiatives in Nevada must be passed twice; the second vote, which is expected to succeed, will come in 2006.

But just as working people and their unions have brought the fight to the state and local level, so has big business. As a result chiefly of lobbying and campaign contributions from hotels and restaurants, and the "think tanks" they fund, eight states have banned city-level minimum wage laws, according to David Swanson of the International Labor Communications Association.

In the Bay Area, activists are trying to follow up on their successes in San Francisco with living wage campaigns in Berkeley, Oakland, and Emeryville.



Some of the state-level campaigns for a minimum wage hike aim to index the minimum wage to the cost of living.

Business groups continue to argue that minimum wage hikes cause job losses. But there is no evidence of job loss from the last minimum wage increase, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

A 1998 EPI study did not find any systematic, significant job loss associated with the 1996-97 minimum wage increase. In fact, following the most recent increase in the minimum wage in 1996-97, the low-wage labor market performed better than it had in decades (e.g., lower unemployment rates, increased average hourly wages, increased family income, decreased poverty rates).

Likewise, studies of the 1990-91 federal minimum wage increase, as well as studies by David Card and Alan Krueger of several state minimum wage increases, found no measurable negative impact on employment. And a recent Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI) study of state minimum wages found no evidence of negative employment effects on small businesses.

It is still possible that President Bush will recognize the huge level of popular support for a minimum wage hike and choose to get on the train before it leaves the station. Senator Edward Kennedy has introduced a bill that would raise the federal minimum to \$7.25 by 2007.

Drivers: come home safe

By Stoney Burk

In past articles I've written about driving. I sometimes feel that we should have a safety article about this subject every month.

Driving is a privilege and a responsibility. We drive some type of vehicle about every day of our lives.

On today's streets and highways we constantly see drivers doing unnecessary things, and we must continually be on guard. Some examples:

Drivers are supposed to stop at stop signs and signals, stop before turning right, obey the speed limit, not tailgate, give other drivers space, anticipate other drivers' responses, be courteous, yield to pedestrians, anticipate signal changes, and be attentive around schools and residential streets for children playing and riding their bikes.

Keep your attention fixed on your driving. On highways many drivers are going 5 to 10 mph over the speed limit. I have seen several accidents, and I always wonder how they could

have been prevented. People injured in accidents may heal, but their body may never be the same.

Driving around highway construction also has many hazards: signal people, rough pavement, bright lights. It's important to pay close attention to the warning signs. Wet and snowy weather conditions also create driving hazards.

Last year, 43,000 people died in vehicle accidents. How many families did this affect? How many of those accidents could have been prevented?

Circle your vehicle before starting it. Be certain your vehicle is in safe operating condition. Obey the speed limits. Obey traffic signals and signs. Use seat belts.

By adhering to the rules, we can make driving more pleasurable and less stressful. Let's all remain alert on the roadways and come home safe! stressful. Let's all remain alert on the roadways and come home safe!

By the Local 1245
Safety Committee



Thank you, Stoney!

A very active and conscientious member of the IBEW Local 1245 Safety Committee has retired.

Stoney Burk served on the Safety Committee for five years. During his tenure he was very active in accident investigation and wrote informative articles for the Utility Reporter, Local 1245's newspaper. Stoney had a deep concern for the safety and well being of all union brothers and sis-

ters.

Stoney, we all thank you for your help, your leadership, your honesty and, more than anything, your concern. Enjoy your retirement—and be safe!

The IBEW Local 1245
Safety Committee

Keith Hopp, David Vipond,
Art Torres, Bob Burkle, Gil Suarez,
Al White, Kurt Celli

Home fire safety

Every year many people die because of home fires. As we get older, it may be harder for us to deal with fires.

Use smoke alarms at various locations in your home. Periodically check them to make sure they work.

Always know how to exit your home in case of fire. Be sure you have several escape routes. Never block escape routes with furniture or anything else that would prevent their use. Plan your escape routes close to a telephone.

Fire extinguishers in the kitchen, basement and garage would be useful if you have time to use them. Be familiar with how to use them. Make sure extinguishers are for use on all types of fires—ABCs are probably

best. Check the gauge on them once in a while to be sure they remain fully charged. Recharge them right away if they have been used.

Make sure you know how to properly use a fire extinguisher. There probably will not be time to read directions when the fire extinguisher is needed. Keep extinguishers near exits so you can get out of the home as you fight the fire.

It's probably best if children do not use extinguishers. They could get hurt by them if not properly trained.

If you have questions about fire safety, you can always call your local fire department.

Stoney Burk

Current members of the Local 1245 Safety Committee: Stoney Burk, Alameda Power & Telecomm.; Keith Hopp, Pacific Gas & Electric; Al White, Pacific Gas & Electric; David Vipond, Citizens Communications; Rich Lane, Turlock Irrigation District; Art Torres, Sacramento Municipal Utility District; Gil Suarez, Davey Tree; Bob Burkle, City of Santa Clara; and Assistant Business Manager Jim McCauley.

**Mourn
for the Dead
Fight
for the Living**

Workers Memorial Day • April 28

Safety Tailboard

Receive an IBEW cup and cap for submitting a safety question selected for publication in the Utility Reporter's Safety Tailboard. Safety Tailboard is an open forum for discussion and learning about safety issues. Submit your question, along with your name and phone number, to:

Safety Tailboard,
c/o Jim McCauley, IBEW 1245, PO Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696

Congratulations newly-retired!

The Local 1245 Retirees Club congratulates these recently-retired members of the union.

Paula Brihacek, 19 years Millville, CA	Jack Oglevie, 33 Sacramento, CA	Michael Fraser, 8 Stockton, CA	Jim Schober, 40 El Sobrante, CA
John Dodgion, 26 years Stockton, CA	Ralph Owens, 31 Fairfield, CA	Larry Frisby, 31 Fresno, CA	Charles Sharps, 33 San Luis Obispo, CA
Gary Donat, 40 years Seaside, CA	Daniel Perez, 33 Merced, CA	Roy Gastelum, 35 Napa, CA	Ronald Smith, 34 Ripon, CA
Steven Hernandez, 32 years Hayward, CA	David Peterson, 32 Santa Rosa, CA	Arthur Gomez, 31 Acampo, CA	Joseph Walters, 39 Vacaville, CA
Homer Massey, 20 years Taft, CA	Ramiro Ramon, 31 Fresno, CA	Glade Grenke, 18 Concord, CA	Laurel Weaver, 35 Sacramento, CA
Michael Mc Neil, 26 years Grover Beach, CA	William Ross, 35 Apple Valley, CA	James Haslouer, 24 Merced, CA	Julia Zimny, 30 Sacramento, CA
Cecil Powell, 30 years Auburn, CA	Charles Sharps, 33 San Luis Obispo, CA	Richard Hollister, 47 Burney, CA	
Edward Smith, 37 years Sanger, CA	Ronald, Smith, 34 Ripon, CA	Ronald Ingersol, 38 Clayton, CA	
John Sorensen, 34 years Merced, CA	Laurel Weaver, 35 Sacramento, CA	Clifton Jackson, 34 Berkeley, CA	
Cynthia Turnipseed, 7 years Davis, CA	Julia Zimny, 29, Sacramento, CA	David Johnson Jr, 34 Stone Mountain, GA	
Dante Venturi, 33 years Pacifica, CA	Judith Abrew, 38 Manteca, CA	Victorino Mante Jr, 30 Salinas, CA	
Rowdy (Larry) Yates, 37 years Burney, CA	Jesse Andrade Jr, 32 Yuba City, CA	Richard Mc Coy, 33 San Francisco, CA	
Paula Wood, 21 years Fresno, CA	Nancy Barthelmess, 28 Cupertino, CA	John Mc Donald Jr, 33 Lower Lake, CA	
Judith Abrew, 38 Manteca, CA	Edward Bruno Jr, 31 Auburn, CA	Leroy Mc Gill Jr, 34 Santa Rosa, CA	
Jesse Andrade Jr, 32 Yuba City, CA	William Bumen, 23 Nipomo, CA	Kent Miller, 22 Fairfield, CA	
Bruce Fedrizzi, 32 Concord, CA	Darrell Burton, 34 Oakland, CA	Jack Oglevie, 33 Sacramento, CA	
Larry Frisby, 32 Fresno, CA	Janet Camenzind, 27 Manteca, CA	Ralph Owens, 31 Fairfield, CA	
Arthur Gomez, 31 Acampo, CA	Joe Carnes, 37 Livermore, CA	Daniel Perez, 33 Merced, CA	
Ronald Ingersol, 37 Clayton, CA	Jerry Cederquist, 24 Pleasanton, CA	David Peterson, 32 Santa Rosa, CA	
Clifton Jackson, 34 Berkeley, CA	James Conroy, 37 Santa Rosa, CA	Alan Pierce, 35 San Jose, CA	
Leroy Mc Gill Jr, 34 Santa Rosa, CA	Joseph Contreras, 25 Fresno, CA	Bart Post, 30 Redwood City, CA	
	William Corriea, 34 Livermore, CA	Ramiro Ramon, 31 Fresno, CA	
	Bruce Fedrizzi, 31 Concord, CA	Wallace Reed, 21 Carson City, NV	
		William Ross, 35 Apple Valley, CA	

Congratulations, but not farewell!

Your fellow IBEW retirees want **you** to stay involved in union affairs that will affect you in retirement—like pensions and medical payments.

The Local 1245 Retirees Club currently has chapters in San Jose and the East Bay and is now seriously exploring setting up new chapters in Fresno and Vacaville to accommodate the large numbers of members retiring in 2005 and 2006.

If you live in the Fresno area, please contact Business Rep. Mike Grill at (559) 292-2031 about helping establish a Retirees Club Fresno Chapter. If you live in Vacaville, please contact Business Rep. Darryl Norris at (916) 688-3637 about establishing a Retirees Club Vacaville Chapter.

If you live in some other area that needs a Retirees Club chapter, please contact Local 1245's office manager Tonya Alston-Maxwell at 707-452-2718.

Unionists, seniors protest privatization

About 500 members of union, senior and community organizations jammed the sidewalks in front of Charles Schwab Corp. in downtown San Francisco on March 31 to protest the brokerage firm's support for Social Security privatization.

The demonstration was one of dozens around the country sponsored by the AFL-CIO to give vent to widespread public opposition to President Bush's attack on traditional Social Security benefits.

IBEW Local 1245 Retiree Club member Jack Hill said the president's plan would waste huge sums of taxpayer money while endangering retirement security. He called on other Local 1245 retirees to start attending Retiree Club meetings to learn how they can become involved in the fight to save Social Security.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney addressed hundreds of activists at a rally at a Charles Schwab office in Washington DC, saying that American voters know privatization is a "flim-flam scheme."

"They already know that

privatization means steep benefit cuts, an exploding deficit, huge bills for our children and grandchildren and more corruption on Wall Street," Sweeney said.

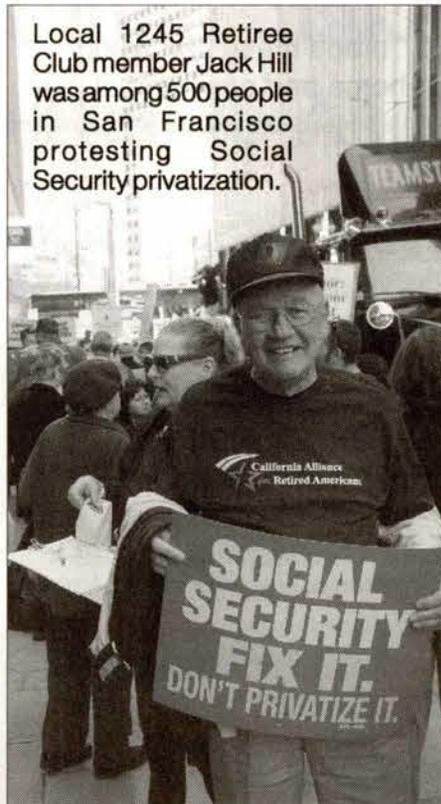
The AFL-CIO accuses executives from Schwab and other companies of backing private Social Security accounts to gain profits from management fees.

Two brokerages—Edward Jones and Waddell & Reed—recently gave up their membership in the pro-privatization Alliance for Worker Retirement Security amid union demonstrations and e-mail campaigns.

The Bush Administration was recently forced to retreat from its position that privatizing Social Security will help the program's solvency; among those who flatly contradicted the Administration on this issue was Federal Reserve chief Alan Greenspan, who acknowledged in testimony to Congress that "In and of itself, it (private accounts) surely doesn't alleviate the current (Social Security) problem."

Unions in California linked Bush's Social Security plan to the

Local 1245 Retiree Club member Jack Hill was among 500 people in San Francisco protesting Social Security privatization.



recent effort by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to terminate traditional retirement plans for public employees and replace them with personal investment accounts whose returns are not guaranteed. (See article, Page One)

Retirees need 'strength of numbers' in negotiations

Editor's note: Tom Young's letter (at right), published recently on www.ibew1245.com, prompted this letter from retired member Linda Lillehaugen.

To the Editor:

In response to Tom Young's letter that retirees should become more proactive or quit complaining—I'd like to share an experience from last negotiations (at PG&E).

Before negotiations started, a very small group of retirees made a concerted effort to address retirees at retiree luncheons in regard to our dwindling pension checks and ballooning medical plan deductions. At our expense, form letters were printed to address such concerns—to be sent to both IBEW and PG&E. Copies were mailed systemwide to as many retiree groups (retired employees' clubs for luncheons) as could be

found. All retirees had to do was sign their name and mail it.

Most retirees understand the significance of "togetherness" in a time of need. Isn't that the premise that unions are based on? Strength in numbers! There are always surprises though. At one large retiree lunch, a retiree "leader" thought it perhaps not appropriate to pass out such form letters at a retiree lunch and had to "check" to see if it was okay. A retired shop steward in that area volunteered to pass out the form letters and there was no "checking"—after all, the letter was about retaining our never-increasing paychecks and medical plans devouring what was left of them.

It's in the retirees' best interest to voice their concerns during negotiations and to do so in numbers. The

more letters the better. When a PG&E spokesperson comes to our retiree lunches asking retirees to help out PG&E by writing the CPUC regarding a situation—form letters are handed out to us to do so. PG&E is looking for as many letters as possible. No one "checks" to see if it's okay. PG&E counts on the retirees to send those letters and we do. Retirees try and support PG&E whenever possible. Can we ask any less for ourselves when most pension checks that never increase are being consumed, on a yearly basis, by our medical plan?

Thanks again to the strong, aggressive negotiating committee that was able to get us our \$7,500.00 RPOA. We needed it. And we'll need it even more when next negotiations come up.



Make a Date...

The Local 1245 Retiree Club invites you to join us for companionship, discussion and projects. Current meeting locations are:

East Bay Chapter:

Meets 2nd Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at IBEW Local 595, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA.

San Jose Chapter:

Meets 1st Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at IBEW Local 332, 2125 Canoas Garden, San Jose.

Speak up or 'quit bitching'

By Tom D.S. Young

The CPI was up 3.3% last year, retirees on Social Security received an adjustment of 2.7%, most federal employees received 3.5%. This may sound familiar, since it happens every year.

If you are a retiree, you are the "stuckee," because you have no voice. You were sold out by the AARP (who backed the Bush Medicare Plan), but you were not sold out by the IBEW Retirees Club, who lobbied for retirees' benefits and got a \$7,500 RPOA for retirees.

Negotiations for Retiree Benefits are coming up later this year. The IBEW Retiree Club needs support *now* from retirees. Please advise all retirees you know to contact the IBEW Retiree Club, or go to the local unit meetings and express their concerns.

Retirees who want an increase in their pensions and benefits need to express their concerns *now* or quit "bitching."

Tom D.S. Young is a member of the Local 1245 Retirees Club.

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Service Employees International Union-SEIU

"We do not boycott to put anyone out of business. We are boycotting to put justice into business."

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Posted by IBEW Local 1245