



## King responds to union concerns

# PG&E pledges more jobs

By Tom Dalzell

IBEW Local 1245 has secured from Pacific Gas & Electric a high-level commitment to address long-standing union concerns about workforce levels at the company.

During an April 13 meeting at union headquarters in Vacaville, PG&E Chief of Utility Operations Tom King pledged to reverse workforce attrition. In addition he announced that PG&E would quickly begin filling over 500 positions. Of these, approximately 300 would be new-hires above and beyond those hired to replace departing workers, with the balance being filled internally.

PG&E's commitment to boost staffing levels comes after repeated expressions of concern by the union that reduced staffing was endangering service quality.

"We are really pleased that PG&E has acknowledged that the problem is real and is making an effort to address it," said Local 1245 Business Manager Perry Zimmerman.

Local 1245 members played a key role in making the case that change was needed. In March, at Zimmerman's invitation, King met with several union members to hear their concerns about workforce shortages. At the April 13 meeting, Zimmerman reconvened the group

to hear King's response.

King told the members that their feedback in March "mirrors what we've heard from around the company" and had caused the company to conduct a more extensive assessment of appropriate staffing levels. King noted that PG&E was engaged in a process of major "transformation" and said, "It's the employees who are going to get us there."

### Cautiously Optimistic

Local 1245 members attending the meeting with King expressed relief that PG&E had pledged to take action and were cautiously optimistic about the outcome.

"It's a step in the right direction," said Lou Mennel, a Gas Service Representative in Sacramento and a member of the union's Advisory Council. "They've made a commitment to hire back when people retire. There's more of a hope now that when people retire they will fill in with new bodies."

"The 300 extra jobs they're talking about are needed. I think it's a start," said Auburn Lineman Terry Andreucci, also a member of the union's Advisory Council.

Of the 500 vacancies the company pledges to fill, 75 will be Elec-

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Representing Pacific Gas & Electric at the meeting on staffing held April 13 at Weakley Hall in Vacaville were, from left: Senior Vice President Jeff Butler, Director of Industrial Relations Steve Rayburn, Senior Vice President and Chief of Utility Operations Tom King, Vice President of Customer Service/Revenue Tom Bottorff, Principal Negotiators Frances Wilder-Davis and John Moffat. Also attending but not pictured are Vice President/Human Resources Russ Jackson, Director/Corporate Services Sabrina Danels and Manager/Corporate Services Brett Knight.



Representing IBEW Local 1245 at the meeting on staffing were, from right: Lineman Dan Mayo, Gas Fitter Darryl Rice, PG&E Operator and Local 1245 President Mike Davis, Business Manager Perry Zimmerman, Senior Assistant Business Manager Tom Dalzell, Assistant Business Manager Dennis Seyfer, Gas Service Representative Lou Mennel, Local 1245 Senior Business Rep. Ken Ball, Troublemaker Al White, and Assistant Business Manager Dorothy Fortier (behind White). Also attending but not pictured are Assistant Business Manager Howard Stiefer, Lineman Terry Andreucci and System Operator Steve Ward.

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**EVENTS**

**MAY 13**

Service Awards  
Ukiah, CA

**May 14**

Stewards Conf. & Service Awards  
Emeryville, CA

**May 21**

Stewards Conf. & Service Awards  
Monterey, CA

**May 21**

Stewards Conference  
San Francisco, CA

**June 4**

Stewards Conference:  
Line Clearance Tree Trimmers  
and Outside Construction  
Vacaville, CA

**APPOINTMENTS**

**CITY OF GRIDLEY**

**Negotiating Committee**

Elisa Artega  
Randy Davis  
Daryl Dye

**CONFERENCES, COUNCILS & CONVENTIONS**

**2005 IBEW Utility Conference**

Mike Stout  
Dave Scott  
Mike Davis  
John Mendoza  
Art Freitas  
Dennis Seyfer  
Tom Dalzell  
Perry Zimmerman

**Coalition of Labor Union Women**

Gloria Flores

**Coalition of Black Trade Unionist (CBTU) 34th Annual Convention**

Darryl Rice  
Dorothy Fortier

**California-Nevada States Association Spring Meeting**

Perry Zimmerman  
Jack McNally

**2005 IBEW Maintenance & Construction Conference**

Tom Dalzell  
Dave Crawford

**28th Annual Congress of California Seniors Convention**

Waite Anthony  
Jack Hill

**California Labor Federation Joint Legislative Conference**

Mike Davis  
John Mendoza  
Dave Scott  
Jim Findley

**YOUR UNION**

# A generation's hard work

**By Perry Zimmerman, Business Manager**



Local 1245's past is very much on my mind.

In the past few months, former Business Representatives Hank Lucas and Rich Hafner died. During that same time, we saw four staff retirements—Manny Mederos, Ed Caruso, Frank Saxsenmeier, and Jim McCauley.

At a retirement dinner on May 7, we were treated to the company of former staffers Ed Fortier, Orville Owen, and Mickey Harrington, as well as former Business Manager Jack McNally.

We are not a perfect organization, but I believe that an objective assessment of Local 1245 would lead to the conclusion that we are an

extremely effective voice for the workplace concerns of our members. We are respected within the utility industry, within the IBEW, and within the labor movement for our competence, hard work, and bargaining gains.

For this, we have those who went before us to thank—McNally, Caruso, Fortier, Hafner, Harrington, Lucas, Mederos, McCauley, Owen, Saxsenmeier, and many more. Each of them came to work for Local 1245 for a single, simple reason—to build a stronger union for their fellow workers. Most of them thought that they could do a better job than was being done, and they did.

We have daunting challenges fac-

ing us this year in bargaining, in corporate reorganization plans, in the legislature. I am confident that we will meet those challenges head-on and prevail. We owe the strength and wisdom that we bring to our work today to the dedication, hard work, and scrappiness of those who came before.

Just as one generation is passing from the workplace and our membership, so too is a generation passing from leadership at Local 1245. Tens of thousands of future members of Local 1245 and their families will live better lives because of this generation's hard work.

I salute them. I thank them. I miss them.



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## Unit meetings

**Unit 2319, Mirant**, will meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 4:00 pm. Meeting location is Skipolini's Pizza in Antioch. Chair is Jim Mann. Recording Secretary is Bruce Nelli.

**Hunter Stern, Business Rep.**

**All Local 1245 Members Please Note:** To obtain the Unit Meeting Schedule for the second half of 2005, please go to [www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com) after June 1st, or contact your Local 1245 Business Representative.

## Save the Date!

Local 1245 Golf Tournament  
September 24, 2005  
Vacaville, Ca.

## Asplundh accepts union's 'last, best and final' offer

After five months of contentious negotiations, Asplundh Tree Expert Co. reached agreement with Local 1245 on a new contract whose provisions mirror the "last, best" offer put on the table by the union in March.

The agreement, which will be submitted to the union members at Asplundh for a vote, offers improvements as well as stability in a volatile industry.

The agreement will also be submitted for ratification by Local 1245 members at two Asplundh subsidiaries, Utility Tree Service, Inc. and Trees, Inc.

"This agreement represents employee medical contribution stability and affordability, per-diem increases and fair annual general wage increases," said Senior Business Rep. Ray Thomas.

Local 1245 first made its "last, best" offer on March 22 during federally-mediated negotiations in Oakland. Asplundh rejected this offer in subsequent meetings, and proposed its own "last and final" offer to the union.

"Asplundh's last and final offer was regressive in the area of future health and welfare benefit levels for employees working on the Pacific Gas and Electric properties," said Thomas. "It also would have eliminated health and welfare benefits, pension, vacation and holidays for employees working on public sector properties such as the Sacramento Municipal Utility District."

Asplundh wanted to pay only the official "prevailing wage" established by the state of California for line clearance tree trimmers.

"The elimination of these ben-

efits would have cost the majority of our public sector contract membership between \$1.70 and \$2.40 per hour immediately, not to mention the immeasurable devastation and repercussions of not having medical insurance," said Thomas.

As the union was preparing to take Asplundh's "last, best" offer out for a vote, which could have led ultimately to a strike vote, the company requested another meeting.

The parties gathered on April 28 at Weakley Hall in Vacaville. Representing Asplundh were Sponsor Greg Asplundh, Labor Relations Manager John Dettl, and Area Manager Mike English. Representing Local 1245 were Business Manager Perry Zimmerman, Senior Assistant Business Manager Tom Dalzell, Assistant Business Manager Dennis Seyfer and Thomas.

Breaking five months of virtual stalemate in the negotiations, Asplundh agreed to the union's offer.

After lengthy discussions over company concerns regarding a state of California Prevailing Wage compliance charge, the union agreed to contact both the Department of Labor Statistics and Research and the Department of Industrial Relations "in order to clarify how apprenticeship progressions actually work subject to our line clearance tree trimming labor agreements," said Thomas.

In the event the company is ultimately found to be out of compliance with the prevailing wage by the state of California, the union and company have agreed to re-open

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## Asplundh acepta la 'última y mejor oferta' del Sindicato

Después de cinco meses de negociaciones contenciosas, Asplundh Tree Expert Co. llegó a un convenio con el Local 1245 sobre un nuevo contrato cuyas provisiones reflejan la 'última y mejor oferta' puesta en la mesa por el Sindicato en marzo.

El convenio, que será presentado para votación de los miembros del Sindicato que trabajan para Asplundh, ofrece ciertas mejoras, además de estabilidad en una industria muy volátil.

El convenio también será presentado para ser ratificado por los miembros del Local 1245 en dos subsidiarias de Asplundh, Utility Tree Service, Inc. y Trees, Inc.

"Este convenio representa estabilidad en las contribuciones de los empleados para sus seguros médicos y mantiene esas contribuciones a un nivel razonable, provee aumentos de viáticos y aumentos generales y justos de salario

todos los años", dijo el Sr. Ray Thomas, Representante Principal de Negocios.

El Local 1245 hizo primero su 'última y mejor oferta' el 22 de marzo, durante negociaciones realizadas con mediación federal en Oakland. Asplundh rechazó esta oferta en reuniones subsiguientes y propuso su propia 'última y mejor oferta' al Sindicato.

"La 'última y mejor' oferta de Asplundh fue regresiva en los niveles de beneficios futuros de salud y bienestar para los empleados que trabajen en las propiedades de Pacific Gas and Electric", dijo el Sr. Thomas. También hubiera eliminado los beneficios de salud y bienestar, las pensiones, vacaciones y pagos de días festivos para los empleados que trabajen en las propiedades del sector público, tales como las del Sacramento Municipal Utility District."

Asplundh quería pagar solamente el "salario estándar oficial"

establecido por el estado de California para los cortadores de árboles que trabajan en la limpieza de líneas eléctricas.

"La eliminación de estos beneficios le hubiera costado a la mayoría de nuestros miembros en el sector público entre \$1.70 y \$2.40 por hora inmediatamente, sin mencionar los inmensos problemas y consecuencias de no tener un seguro médico," dijo el Sr. Thomas.

Cuando el Sindicato se estaba preparando para presentar la 'última y mejor oferta' de Asplundh ante sus miembros, lo que hubiera eventualmente resultado en un voto de huelga, la compañía solicitó otra reunión.

Las partes se reunieron el 28 de abril en Weakley Hall in Vacaville. Representando a Asplundh estaban el patrocinador Greg Asplundh, el gerente de relaciones laborales John Dettl, y el gerente de área Mike English. Representando al Local

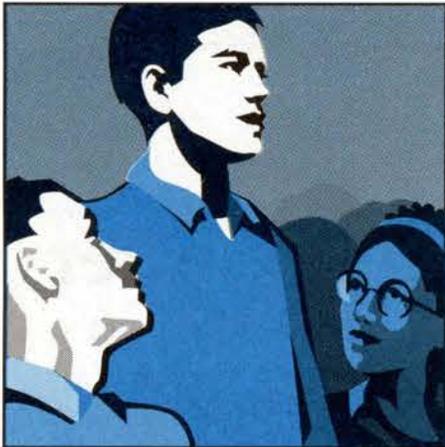
1245 estaban el gerente de negocios Perry Zimmerman, el subgerente principal de negocios Tom Dalzell, el subgerente de negocios Dennis Seyfer y el Sr. Thomas.

Para resolver los cinco meses de negociaciones, que estaban en una intransigencia virtual, Asplundh aceptó la oferta del Sindicato.

Después de largas discusiones acerca de la preocupación de la compañía con el cumplimiento de las reglas de salarios de California, el Sindicato acordó comunicarse con el Departamento de Estadísticas Laborales y el Departamento de Relaciones Industriales de California "para aclarar la forma en que las progresiones de aprendices trabajan actualmente sujetas a nuestros convenios para los trabajos de poda de árboles y limpieza de líneas eléctricas," dijo el Sr. Thomas.

En el caso de que se determine

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## 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**

...or go to [www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com) and hit the feedback button at the bottom of Perry Zimmerman's column to send your opinions by e-mail.

*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.*



### Sacramento Pin Dinner

The photos on Pages 8-9 in last month's Utility Reporter were obviously from a pin dinner, but which one? We neglected to mention that these photos were from the Service Award ceremony held Feb. 11 in Sacramento.

## Negotiate help for retired members

**Editor's Note:** The following letters were received by e-mail and recently published on the Local 1245 website at [www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com)

### Help those who built the foundation

To the Editor:

As a current member, I wish to address a concern that will affect all of us at one time or another, an issue that needs to be talked about and placed in our minds as we enter our upcoming wage re-opener talks.

After talking with many retired friends of IBEW who have worked for PG&E, I keep hearing the same echo. That echo is, once you retire, there is no cost of living addition to your pension.

Is it just that we are too busy thinking about today? Or is it a lack of remembering the contributions, dedication and respect for those that have taught us, provided for us, and gave so much to build a foundation to propel us in being who we are today and where we will go tomorrow. That, too, is PG&E. Dignity and respect to those that are retired is a measure of a professional, forward-thinking company, one that recalls where it has been in order to understand where it will go.

I, for one, hope that we can provide a level of support to those who have charted the path and passed the baton. I propose a cost of living increase for all retired members based

on a percentage at 2% to be added in alternating years beginning in the 3rd year and continuing through the life of the retiree in alternating years. (3rd, 5th, 7th, etc. for the life of the member in retirement).

After looking at our annual report for costs contained within the retirement plan I would hope that some measure of improvement could be provided to our retirees. It's the right thing to do. It is needed to sustain a quality of life within retirement.

Dave Steves  
Oakland, CA

### Never never give up

To the Editor:

I retired from PG&E Aug. 31, 1998 after 46 years of service in the San Joaquin Division. I now live in Heavener, OK with a decent retirement from the company & Social Security. I say a decent retirement, because I can live in Oklahoma where the cost of living is definitely lower than in California.

With the cost of living increases each year, it is just a matter of time until that will no longer be true.

After reading the letter by Dave Steves (see previous letter), I decided to get on the band wagon and write a letter and get more involved with negotiations. I understand that negotiations for pensions & retirement come up later this year.

Social Security gives retirees a raise each year, approximately 1%

less than the cost of living. Of course the cost of Medicare takes up a portion of that.

It seems to me that a cost of living raise from PG&E should at least keep up with Social Security, especially considering that the retirement plan increases in value each year after expenses are paid. The one year when it did not increase was the year that stocks took a big hit. The Medical Plan has been on the same track, year after year.

I remember the year that PG&E sued for bankruptcy, that our retirement plan was worth something like 9 billion dollars. Thanks to IBEW 1245 negotiations and agreements and government controls, PG&E couldn't touch the plan like so many other companies were able to do!

Next year in July, I will have used up the \$7500 RPOA, and my Medical Insurance premium will double to about \$600 per month. With the increase in deductibles & co-pays, my wife & I will be barely getting by.

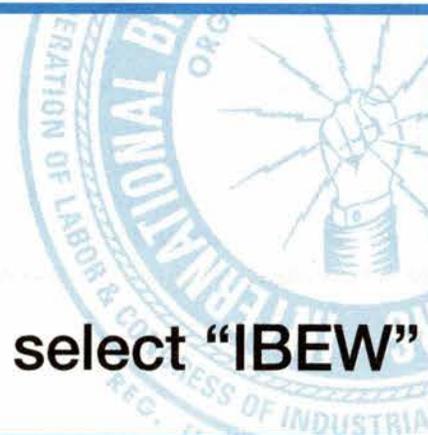
I know that all of this is being considered and I want to thank you all for the great job the union has done for me and all the employees of PG&E through the years. Keep up the good work and like Winston Churchill said during World War II: NEVER, NEVER, NEVER GIVE UP!

Thank you.  
Jesse Crane  
Retired member  
Heavener, OK

Don't be the last to know!  
Get your union news [on-line!](http://www.ibew1245.com)

On the Internet: [www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com)

On PG&E Intranet: Go to "My Stuff," then select "IBEW"



# PG&E pledges more jobs

## ► From Page 1

tric Division positions covered by Title 200 of the labor agreement. Approximately 100 will be in Electric General Construction, 54 in Division Gas, and 22 in Division Transmission.

Figures provided by the company also indicate an intention to hire 20 additional Troublemakers and 21 additional Gas Service Reps.

## Oldest Workforce

The utility workforce problem is real and it is serious, both at PG&E and around the nation. According to a recent report on National Public Radio's Morning Edition, half of the nation's electrical line workers are scheduled to retire over the next five years, making it the oldest average workforce in any industry.

For years, union workers at PG&E have voiced concerns that PG&E is not hiring enough people to maintain traditionally high service levels, let alone replace the large number of older workers getting ready to retire.

Data presented by PG&E on April 13 indicated that the company has begun to focus on hiring in recent years. The company began to ramp up hiring in 2000 with 938 new hires, 1534 in 2001, 1198 in 2002, and 1353 in 2003.

Hiring dropped significantly in 2004 but is on the upswing in 2005,

according to the company.

Company officials noted that PG&E has added over 2100 apprentice jobs since 2002 to prepare for journeymen retirements.

## Questions Remain

While welcoming the company's pledge to increase the workforce, the union members attending the April 13 meeting said many questions remain.

"The numbers look great, but I'd like to see a breakdown (of) who's going to be out in the field," said Al White, a Concord Troublemaker.

Merced Lineman Dan Mayo said he was more interested in trends than specific numbers.

"I want to see the numbers trending up on a yard-by-yard, headquarters-by-headquarters basis," said Mayo. "I'm not interested in seeing meaningless numbers. It needs to mean something to everybody, it needs to translate into jobs everywhere."

Templeton System Operator Steve Ward wondered how PG&E will fill the promised jobs in light of its recent practice of shutting down job openings rather than letting Bay Area members fill them.

"There's a fence around the Bay Area to prevent journeymen from

**"It's a start, if they live up to what they say they're going to do. We'll have to monitor it."**

**Mike Davis, Local 1245 President**

leaving the Bay Area," said Ward, which has led to workforce shortages in some locations outside of the Bay Area. The April 13 meeting, he observed, "didn't get into specific issues that are painful."

Andreucci said the company needs to start filling beginning level jobs, and he knows just where the company ought to start looking for candidates.

"They need to get people from the area so they buy homes in the area, have a commitment to the community, to the company"

## Guarded Optimism

Andreucci said he came away from the April 13 meeting feeling "guarded optimism."

"It all sounds good, I'd love to have it happen, but..." Andreucci took a long pause before finishing

the thought. "But we've all seen it before."

Mayo was similarly hopeful, and similarly guarded.

"It all depends on what they actually do. They can have a plan on paper, but until they actually follow through it's meaningless," Mayo said.

Local 1245 President Mike Davis, who also attended the April 13 meeting, was prepared to give PG&E the benefit of the doubt for now.

"It's a start, if they live up to what they say they're going to do," said Davis. "We'll have to monitor it."

Zimmerman closed the meeting with an invitation to King to return to Local 1245 headquarters in September to update the union on the company's progress in filling jobs.



Mayo



Andreucci



Davis

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## Outside report

In the four or so weeks ending April 29, we had 102 calls for Journeyman Lineman, 11 for Equipment Specialist, 43 for Groundman, zero for Cable Splicers, 9 for Underground Techs, and 10 for Apprentices, for a total of 175.

### The books, as of April 29:

Journey Lineman, Book 1: 10  
 Journey Lineman, Book 2: 2  
 Lineman, Book 3: 2  
 Lineman, Book 4: 18  
 Equipment Specialist, Book 1: 7  
 Equipment Specialist, Book 2: 1  
 Equipment Specialist, Book 3: 3  
 Groundman, Book 1: 12  
 Groundman, Book 2: 8  
 Groundman, Book 3: 23  
 Groundman, Book 4: 115  
 Cable Splicer, Book 1: 0  
 Cable Splicer, Book 2: 0  
 Cable Splicer, Book 3: 1

**Outside Agreement:** 108 crews working.

**Underground Agreement:** 35 crews working.

**Pole and Test Agreement:** 37 crews working.

**Teledata Agreement:** 14 crews working.

**A total of 194 crews** are working on the Outside.

**JATC:** Currently we have 252 apprentices. Two are traveling, 30 are working out of Local 1245; 200 are working out of Local 47; 6 are working out of Local 396 and 16 are laid off due to various reasons. Fifteen apprentices have passed their test and are journeyman linemen. Next crane class is May 16-19 and May 23-26.

### Other:

- All Day Electric Inc. signed our Outside Line Agreement and Underground Agreement, bringing in 11 new members.
- Next Joint Safety Meeting is May 18.
- Shop steward conference is scheduled for June 4 at Weakley Hall in Vacaville.

Dave Crawford,  
 Business Rep.

## TMWA members win 'top ops' competition

Local 1245 members Darrin Garland and Mike Nevarez ran away with the show in the "Top Ops" competition at the Annual Conference of the California-Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association.

Garland, a Water Treatment Distribution Operator III, and Nevarez, a Water Treatment Distribution Operator Apprentice, represented Reno-based Truckee Meadows Water Authority in the two-state competition. What's more, they did it as the only two-man team in a competition designed for three-man teams.

"They won everything. They won over all the other operators in the state of California and Nevada," said Jon Rouse, a Local 1245 Shop Steward and chair of the operators division of the California-Nevada Section.

Considered the "college bowl" of the water industry, the TopOps competition tests the everyday know-

how of water treatment operators, with questions approved by the Associations of Boards of Certification.

"These guys really went above and beyond," said Rouse. "They represented the company well, they

represented the union well. They really put a lot of time in to be able to answer these questions."

The next step for Garland and Nevarez is San Francisco, where the national competition will be held in June.



Michael Nevarez, left, and Darrin Garland are the Top Operators in a two-state region.

## Retirement Planning Seminar for Outside Construction members

IBEW Local 1245 in association with NEBF/NEAP will offer a Retirement Planning Seminar to members employed by the following agreements: Outside Line, Pole Testing, Underground and Teledata. Spouses are invited to attend as well. The seminar will cover aspects of the NEBF and NEAP Plans.

The seminar will help you become aware of your options as retirement age approaches.

Lawrence J. Bradley, Executive Secretary-Treasurer and Michael Reed, Assistant Administrator with the National Electrical Benefit Fund, will give the presentation. Local 1245 Business Representative, David Crawford, will also attend.

The seminar will be held at the Ronald T. Weakley Hall, IBEW Local 1245, 30 Orange Tree Circle, Vacaville, CA on September 10, 2005, beginning at 8 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served.

For further information, contact Business Representative David Crawford at (707) 452-2738.

## Osterlund hired

Long-time union activist and Advisory Council member Joe



Osterlund has been hired by Osterlund Local 1245 as business representative for the North Bay.

Osterlund, a Field Garage Mechanic for PG&E General Construction, assumes responsibility for the assignment previously held by Business Rep. Larry Pierce, who is now on special assignment.

Osterlund has served as a temporary business representative intermittently over the past several months. He officially joined the Local 1245 staff full-time on April 1.

Welcome aboard, Joe!

# Schwarzenegger retreats on plan to abolish public employee pensions

Workers demonstrated the power of concerted action last month when, through massive protests, they forced Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to back down from his plan to terminate defined-benefit pension plans for public employees.

Schwarzenegger, who once strode among "the people" as a self-styled savior of California, went to great lengths to avoid coming into contact with actual people as protests mounted. He arrived at the Ritz-Carlton in San Francisco hours before a union demonstration that included members of IBEW Local 1245. In San Jose, the governor drove

directly into an underground garage to avoid protesters during a fundraiser in San Jose. Local 1245 was also represented among the 250 people who marched in protest when Schwarzenegger visited Santa Rosa.

Local 1245 members also registered their concerns directly with the governor via e-mails channeled through the union's new web-based "Action Squad." (Visit [www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com) and click the Action Squad logo to participate in the Action Squad.)

Local 1245 members already vested in the PERS system were at risk from Schwarzenegger's pro-

posal, according to Local 1245 Business Rep. Jack Osburn, because it could dry up the contributions from active employees that fund cost of living adjustments for those receiving benefits. Once current members retire, they could face a retirement in which pension payments are frozen even as inflation drives up the cost of living, if a plan like Schwarzenegger's is ultimately adopted, Osburn said.

Police and firefighters, who were outraged at the proposed elimination of death and disability benefits, remain wary of the governor. Nurses, teachers and other public employees are increasingly resentful that he refers to them as "special interests" while raking in millions in contributions from corporations, who are not considered "special interests" by the governor.

"We're happy he's going to sit down and work with us through the legislative process," Lou Paulson, president of California Professional Firefighters Association, told the San Francisco Chronicle. "But if he goes forward with this special election ... and you've got initiatives that will be harmful to unions, it's going to be difficult for us to ever be able to say that he is on labor's side for anything."

Allies of the governor are spending huge sums to qualify an anti-union initiative designed to hamstring the unions' political clout. Citizens to Save California pledged to raise \$13 million to put a number of Schwarzenegger-backed initiatives on the ballot. The business-backed group says it wants to create jobs.

But the depth of its commitment to job creation was revealed by San Francisco Chronicle columnist David Lazarus, who noted that the group declined to have Californians perform the work of verifying its petition signatures. Instead, the Citizens to Save California outsourced the work to India.



IBEW  
Action Squad  
LU 1245

## Take Action

The IBEW Local 1245 website gives you an opportunity to take action on important issues affecting Local 1245 members.

In May, members can take action to block Schwarzenegger's friends in the legislature who are trying to bring back electric deregulation.

Together we are making a difference!  
Go to:  
[www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com)  
and click on the Action Squad logo.

## STOP DEREGULATION!

The following letter was sent by Local 1245 Legislative Representative Scott Wetch to Assembly Member Keith Richman.

Dear Assembly Member Richman,

On behalf of the *Coalition of California Utility Employees*, we write to oppose your AB 515 in the strongest terms.

AB 515 is yet another attempt to plunge California into the failed experiment of electric utility deregulation. Deregulation resulted in the most expensive public policy disaster in the history of California. In the years 2000 and 2001 alone, California spent \$40 billion more for electricity than in the prior two years. The deregulation fiasco was more expensive than the current California budget deficit.

The current hangover of deregulation continues to plague California. The grandfathered direct access customers are the cause of the current uncertainty about future electric supplies. There would be no concern for reliability if investor owned utilities served all customers and non-utility electric service providers were simply banned. It is insuperably complex to ensure reliability for all customers connected to the grid when about 15% of the load has no long-term obligation and electric service providers are not being subjected to the same obligations as IOUs.

AB 515 claims it will encourage construction of additional electric generation capacity. In fact, it would have the opposite effect. By making the utilities uncertain about the size of their future customer base, they will be unable to make the kind of long term commitments needed to finance new generation, either directly or under contract.

Direct access customers can never be the basis for financing new power plants. There is no customer, or group of customers, with enough certainty of long term demand to support financing for a 500 MW power plant. The numbers simply don't work. Moreover, any group of customers that is smaller than the group of all utility customers will, by definition, be a less secure funding source than the group of all utility customers. AB 515 would guarantee that major new generation in California would be unfinanceable.

AB 515, and the concept of electric deregulation, should be emphatically rejected. It is embarrassing that elected officials in California continue to pursue deregulation in the face of all of the evidence showing that it has not, and cannot, work.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Scott Wetch

## Unit update

Unit 1411, City of Santa Clara, has a new meeting date. Instead of the second Thursday, meetings will now be held on the second Wednesday of each month. Meeting time remains 4:30 pm, and the location remains Vesuvios Resturant, 3044 El Camino in Santa Clara.

Lynne Morel  
Business Rep.



Dave Morrison, Frontier



Kevin Bellflower, Mirant



Juanita Green-Collins,  
United States Bureau  
of Reclamation



Ralph Ladd, AC  
Transit



Larry Martin, Marianne Phillipenko and Karen Carter,  
Frontier



From left: Jeff Black, Western Area Power  
Administration; Leo Brizuela and Mike McKay,  
US Bureau of Reclamation.



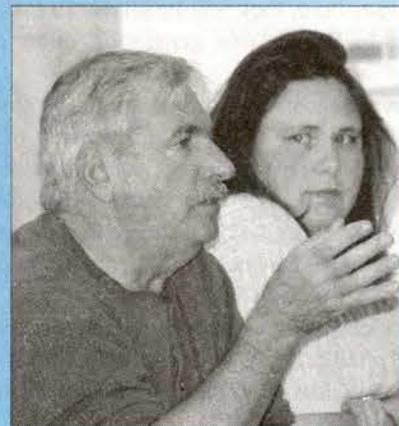
Guy Greenwood,  
AC Transit



Michael Gomes,  
Modesto Irrigation  
District



Business Rep. Jack Osburn, left,  
and Dave Vandermeer, City of  
Shasta



Dave Souza, left, and Karri Daves,  
Modesto Irrigation District.



Barry Mitchell, Mirant

# Public Sector Sh

Weakley Hall ♦ April 23, 20

When Local 1245 public sector stewards met at Weakley Hall last month, they had something to celebrate: widespread public protests had forced Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to back down from his plan to terminate defined-benefit pension plans for public employees.

"All it is an attack on labor, but they took on too much," Business Manager Perry Zimmerman said of Schwarzenegger's pension proposal. But don't get too complacent, Zimmerman warned. "Once they have refined it, they will be back." (See story, Page 7).

In welcoming the stewards to Weakley Hall for the day-long conference, Zimmerman also warned of the immense challenge of maintaining health benefits, saying the issue was "is killing us in the negotiating process."

Stewards from private sector Duke, Mirant and Frontier also participated in the conference.

Attorney Lynn Faris led a length discussion of due process protections for public employees under California law, known as "Skelly Rights" after the court case in which they were first codified.

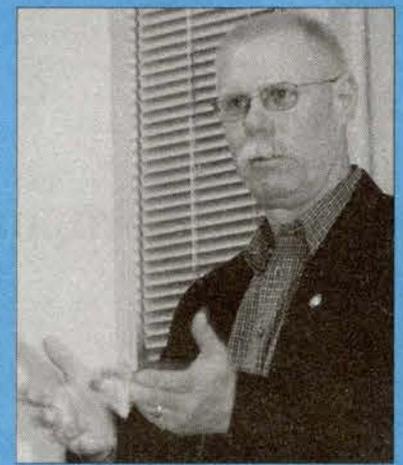
Skelly rights entitle the employee to due process

## Participants

- |                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Hazel Bailey, Duke                  | Mike McKay, USBR                      |
| Kevin Bellflower, Mirant            | Barry Mitchell, Mirant                |
| Jeff Black, WAPA                    | Dave Morrison, Citizens               |
| Leonardo Brizuela, USBR             | Forrest Mouw, Modesto ID              |
| Mike Brown, Merced ID               | Monte Nelson, Citizens                |
| Carlos Calderon, EPA Provco         | Dwayne Norman, Redding (Electric)     |
| Bill Campbell                       | Doug Paslay, Redding (Electric)       |
| Karen Carter, Frontier              | Van Pender, USBR                      |
| Kurt Celli, Modesto ID              | Marianne Phillipenko, Frontier        |
| Mathew Cervenka, Redding (Electric) | Joseph Pica, SMUD                     |
| Dave Cuthbertson, City of Oakland   | Patrick Pipis, USBR                   |
| Karri Daves, Modesto ID             | John Ramos, Frontier                  |
| Paul Easley, SMUD                   | Denise Sanders, Frontier              |
| Michael Gomes, Modesto ID           | Paul Snyder, Redding (Electric)       |
| Juanita Green-Collins, USBR         | David Souza, Modesto ID               |
| Guy Greenwood, AC Transit           | Eric Tanaka, Frontier                 |
| Ralph Ladd, AC Transit              | David Vandermeer, City of Shasta Lake |
| Sheila Lawton, Citizens             | Joann Villalovos, Lassen MUD          |
| Jana Linkiewicz, NCPA               | Vern Wood, Redding (Electric)         |
| Betty Magnoli, Mirant               | Todd Woolman, City of Healdsburg      |
| Larry Martin, Frontier              | Owen Yuen Jr., SMUD                   |
| Michael McDonald, Mirant            |                                       |

# op Stewards

5 ◆ Vacaville, CA



Assistant Business Manager  
Dennis Seyfer



From left: Kurt Celli, Modesto Irrigation District, Business Rep. Lynne Morel, and Dave Cuthbertson, City of Oakland

consisting of:

- Notice of the intended disciplinary action,
- A copy of all materials upon which the action is based, and
- An opportunity to respond orally or in writing to an impartial reviewer prior to discipline being imposed.

Business Rep. Lynne Morel offered an overview of grievance handling.

The first place to look when investigating a possible grievance is the collective bargaining agreement or Memorandum of Understanding in effect with that particular employer. In addition, civil service rules and regulations provide a parallel track for pursuing grievances on public sector properties, Morel said.

Business Rep. Sam Glero reviewed the "seven tests" for determining whether a disciplinary action is for "just cause," while Business Rep. Gary Hughes examined the issue of "past practice" and its role in securing employee rights.

Also making presentations were Business Rep. Kit Stice and Assistant Business Manager Dennis Seyfer.



From right: Mathew Cervenka, Duane Norman and Paul Snyder from City of Redding (Electric); Betty Magnoli, Ernie Calderon and Barry Mitchell from Mirant.



Sonya Hubbard,  
Lassen Municipal  
Utility District



Linkiewicz,



Monte Nelson, Frontier



Business Manager Perry Zimmerman, right, reports to Public Sector stewards on current union issues.

## Provisiones importantes

Importantes mejoras y cambios contractuales si son ratificados por los miembros en las compañías respectivas:

### TÉRMINO

Asplundh: 1° de enero, 2005, hasta el 31 de diciembre, 2007

Trees, Inc.: 1° de junio, 2005, hasta el 31 de diciembre, 2007

Utility Tree: 3 de julio, 2005, hasta el 31 de diciembre, 2007

### AUMENTOS GENERALES DE SALARIOS

(en las fechas aniversario en los convenios respectivos, incluyendo retroactividad si fuera aplicable):

2005: 3.4%

2006: 3.4%

2007: 3.4%

### LENGUAJE SOBRE EL CAPATAZ PRINCIPAL

Permite un aumento del 5% en salarios para los podadores de árboles que satisfacen el criterio necesario, no importa si el contrato con el cliente permite el aumento.

### NUEVO LENGUAJE SOBRE LOS DERECHOS DE LA ADMINISTRACIÓN

Requiere una "causa justa" antes de disciplinar o despedir a los empleados.

### GASTOS

Aumentar los viáticos actuales del Artículo V a \$25. por día de trabajo a distancias de más de 60 millas del lugar general de trabajo, y garantizando habitaciones para dormir si el trabajo queda a una distancia de más de 100 millas.

### ANTIGÜEDAD

Las mejoras en el Artículo VI requieren que la compañía provea beneficios de seguro médico el día primero del mes siguiente a su fecha de empleo, si ellos asumen su área actual del contrato.

### PENSIÓN

A partir del 1° de enero, 2006, los empleados tendrán la opción de contribuir a sus cuentas de jubilación mediante deducciones realizadas en sus cheques de pago.

### SALUD Y BIENESTAR

A partir del día primero del mes siguiente a la fecha de ratificación del convenio por los miembros, hasta el 31 de diciembre del año 2007, las siguientes serán las primas que deberán pagar los nuevos empleados, mediante deducciones realizadas en sus cheques de pago, para el seguro de salud y bienestar:

Empleado: \$20

Empleado y su cónyuge: \$30

Familia: \$35

## Asplundh accepts offer

### ► From Page 3

negotiations specific to public sector contract areas such as SMUD and Roseville Electric.

Asplundh also agreed to continue discussing the creation of a state apprenticeship for Line Clearance Tree Trimmers, which the union has been promoting.

Details of the wages and benefits agreed to by Asplundh at this meeting are listed in the accompanying box.

The union is preparing explanation literature and ballots for membership voting at Asplundh, Trees, Inc. and Utility Tree.

"We will be discussing the terms of this agreement at all regular unit meetings and as many specially scheduled meetings as we can accommodate," said Thomas. "This agreement is very worthy of membership consideration and vote," he added.

Members with questions are encouraged to contact Ray Thomas at 800-247-1245 ext.2762 with any questions.

## Asplundh acepta oferta

### ► de la página 3

eventualmente que la compañía no está cumpliendo con el reglamento de salarios del estado de California, el Sindicato y la compañía acordaron volver a abrir negociaciones específicamente para las áreas de contratos en el sector público, tales como SMUD y Roseville Electric.

Asplundh también acordó continuar discutiendo la creación de un nivel de aprendizaje de estado para los podadores de árboles para la limpieza de líneas, que el Sindicato ha estado promoviendo.

Los detalles de los salarios y beneficios acordados por Asplundh en esta reunión se muestran más abajo.

El Sindicato está preparando una literatura explicativa y las balotas para la votación de los miembros en Asplundh, Trees, Inc. y Utility Tree.

"Estaremos hablando sobre los términos de este Convenio en todas las reuniones regulares de la unidad y en todas las reuniones especialmente programadas que podamos acomodar," dijo el Sr. Thomas. "Este convenio realmente se merece la consideración y el voto de nuestros miembros," añadió el Sr. Thomas.

Los miembros que tengan preguntas deben comunicarse con Ray Thomas, por el teléfono 800-247-1245, ext.2762.

## Major provisions

Major contractual improvements/changes if ratified by the membership at the respective companies:

### TERM

Asplundh: January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2007

Trees, Inc.: June 1, 2005 through December 31, 2007

Utility Tree: July 3, 2005 through December 31, 2007

### GENERAL WAGE INCREASES

(on current anniversary dates in respective agreements including retroactivity if applicable):

2005: 3.4%

2006: 3.4%

2007: 3.4%

MASTER FOREMAN LANGUAGE allows for a 5% increase in wages for Arborists who meet the criteria regardless of whether or not the client contract allows for the increase.

NEW MANAGEMENT RIGHTS LANGUAGE which requires "just cause" in the discipline or discharge of employees.

### EXPENSES

Increase current Article V per-diem to \$25. per day for work over 60 miles from headquarters and guaranteed sleeping rooms for work beyond 100 miles.

### SENIORITY

Article VI enhancements which require the company to provide medical benefits the first of the month following your employment if they assume your current contract area.

### PENSION

Effective Jan. 1, 2006, employees will have the option to contribute to their pension accounts by payroll deduction.

### HEALTH AND WELFARE

Effective the first month following membership ratification through Dec. 31, 2007, the following will be the new employee Health and Welfare premium contribution by payroll deduction:

Employee: \$20

Employee and Spouse: \$30

Family: \$35

# Photo inspired memories of the early days



Editor's note: The following letter is from PG&E retiree Don Davis.

Dear Perry,

Your December 2004 Edition had a 1955 picture (reprinted at right) that sure brought back memories of my early days with Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

I started with PG&E at El Dorado Powerhouse in 1948 as a utility man and Relief 1st operator after two years in the Navy as an electrician and steam generator operator aboard an aircraft carrier. The pictures of Bob Glasgow and Frank Romberg especially caught my eye. Bob and Frank were troublemen out of Placerville. They both helped a 19-year-old kid operate the local electric

system.

Enclosed find a picture of people that happened to be available when the camera crew showed up at Eldo on Oct. 26, 1949 (see photo below). Sorry I cannot remember the names of the Hydro maintenance crew from Auburn that were on site to work on the #2 unit.

From left to right:

Donald Davis, Relief Operator; Olie Olson, 1st Operator; Charlie Collier, 1st Operator; Unknown Hydro Maintenance; Unknown Hydro Maintenance; Jim Berthoff P.H. Foreman; Unknown Hydro Maintenance; Unknown Hydro Maintenance; and Unknown Hydro Maintenance.



PG&E Placerville, 1955, as featured in December 2004 Utility Reporter

All of the men in the picture were Local 1245 members except Jim the Foreman.

I was shop steward for the PH Operators.

I thought the Hydro Department and Operators in general might enjoy this page out of history. I personally know all the business managers before you. Ron Weakley, Mitch Mitchell and Jack McNally, in my role as Shop Steward and PG&E negotiator.

The best memories I have of my company/union relationship was negotiating the operator training agreement back in the 70's. On the negotiating team were John Wilder, Assistant Business Manager, Kent Anderson, Industrial Relations, and

myself. The three of us spent many hours over a long period of time hammering out that agreement. I recently talked to Kent and we both consider it one of the best win/win collective bargaining agreements between the union and company. Without it the San Ramon simulator would never have been constructed. I had enough opposition and problems building the Emeryville Simulator with a \$47,000 job and an estimated cost of \$250,000 and no tangible evidence to prove its worth. But the Divisions, General Construction and Districts throughout the system donated parts and labor and made it happen.

Best of luck to you, Perry, your paper is much appreciated.

## We Want To Borrow Your Old Photos!

If you have old work-related photos lying around, now's your chance to put them to good use. Loan them to the union for publication in our newspaper and/or our website. We promised to take good care of them and return them promptly if requested to do so. Send your photos to:

IBEW Photo Archives  
P.O. Box 2547  
Vacaville, CA 95696





**Reno, NV**  
**April 9, 2005**

**45 Years:** Gary Campbell, right, receives 45-year award from Assistant Business Manager Dennis Seyfer.



**40 Years:** Michael Kumle, right, receives 40-year award from Assistant Business Manager Dennis Seyfer.

### The Honorees

**55 Years**  
 Leonard Colceaser  
 Harold E. Jones

**45 Years**  
 Gary Campbell

**40 Years**  
 Michael Kumle  
 Franklin Lucchesi

**35 Years**  
 Melvin Collins  
 Ralph Goegg  
 Aleta Goltz  
 Frederick Jones  
 James SeEVERS

**30 Years**  
 Michael Cecchini  
 Greg Clark  
 Robert Hackbarth  
 Ronald Hall  
 Randy Johnson  
 Thomas Math  
 William Pierce

Michael Sheahan  
 Robert White

**25 Years**  
 Gary Ackerman  
 Larry Allison  
 Michael Armstrong  
 Richard Arthur  
 Alan Brown  
 Kenneth Brown  
 Marna Browne  
 Hugh Burgess  
 John Bush  
 Roy Callahan  
 Joel Cote  
 Lance Cowperthwaite  
 Carl Crawford  
 Stewart Douglass  
 Robert Flury  
 Dale Huntsman  
 Beverly Johnson  
 James Jones  
 Michael Jones  
 William Keating  
 Jeffrey Kelly  
 Stanley Kinder  
 George Layfield

Donald Lough  
 Kim Marlow  
 Tom Martino  
 Dana Mc Kinney  
 Joel Mc Vickers  
 David Miller  
 James Miller  
 Dana Moler  
 James Ohl  
 Ron Opfer  
 Dana Pastrell  
 Dorothy Perkin  
 Joseph Pickett  
 Andy Pinochi  
 Jim Pursel  
 Robert Quilici  
 Gary Reid  
 Allen Roberts  
 Loran Robinson  
 Leopoldo Salas  
 Mike Scottish  
 Robert Smith  
 William Summy  
 Richard Sussman  
 Allen Teixeira  
 Pete Vasquez  
 Robert Warne  
 Jeff Wolf



**35 Years**



**25 Years**



**30 Years**

## Increased job demands raise new concerns about safety

The decline of quality jobs—increased workloads, fewer employees and faster production rates—is emerging as a major safety and health issue for workers across a broad range of occupations and industries, according to the newly released AFL-CIO safety report, *Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect*.

Truck drivers, health care workers, steelworkers and flight attendants are some of America's many employees whose health risks are growing as the quality of their jobs declines.

In 2004, 36 steelworkers were killed on the job and USW (the merged union of the United Steelworkers of America and PACE International Union) says extraordinary pressure to compete with low-wage countries has led the steel industry to make unsafe cuts in production costs.

"Companies are dealing with the overseas competition by cutting back on crew sizes, layoffs, scaling back safety and health programs, delaying maintenance and running equipment full-out and that only leads to more workers getting hurt or killed on the job," says Mike Wright, USW safety director.

### Long Work Hours

Longshore workers at ports around the nation are seeing record levels of shipments, but the number of workers hasn't grown enough to safely handle the surge. Dock workers' unions say the recent upsurge of harbor accidents and fatalities is tied to the increased workloads that force longer, back-to-back shifts in an already dangerous work environment.

Truck drivers are on duty for 14

hours a day, 11 of those behind the wheel. Despite studies that show the risk of accidents greatly increases after eight hours at work, federal rules that govern how many hours truckers can drive on a shift were increased in 2004 by 10%.

For nurses and other health care workers, inadequate staffing and mandatory overtime puts patients' safety at risk and threatens caregivers' health and safety, according to *Death on the Job*. Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants had the highest number of musculoskeletal injuries of any occupation in 2003. These are injuries to the back, neck and shoulders caused by the cumulative effects of shifting, lifting and repositioning patients—risks that are compounded when fewer employees work longer hours.

Workers in many industries, including poultry and meatpacking, laundry, telecommunication call centers, hotels and others, also face such safety risks.

### Failure to Enforce

Employers that downsize work crews, implement speedups and cut corners on safety have little to fear from the Bush administration's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), safety advocates say. Funding for important worker safety programs has been cut and the agency has shifted its emphasis from tough enforcement of safety standards to encouraging employers to voluntarily comply. With current staffing and inspection levels, it would take OSHA 108 years to inspect every workplace under its jurisdiction just once, according to *Death on the Job*.

By the Local 1245  
Safety Committee



## Allergies pose safety concerns

It's that time of the year: spring is in full swing and winter is but a memory.

While some people will be planning family picnics, trips to the ballpark and other ways to enjoy the warm weather, about 20% of the US population, or 35 million people, suffer from hay fever or allergic rhinitis. Trees pollinate during early spring and grasses during late spring.

Pollens are difficult to avoid. Individuals who suffer from allergies should avoid outdoor activity during peak pollen times. Trees and grasses pollinate mainly during early morning hours (5-10 AM). Many trees, grasses and weeds have small, light and dry pollens that are easily carried by the wind.

Some of the major outdoor allergens that cause allergic reactions during this time of year are trees such as oak, elm, birch, ash, hickory, poplar, sycamore, maple, cypress, walnut, and western red cedar, as well as grasses.

Since allergies can lead to other chronic conditions such as asthma, they should not be taken lightly.

When allergy season is in full bloom it's important to educate yourself regarding the use of sedating and non-sedating medications used to treat seasonal allergies. Use of these medications can pose risks to people on the job and behind the wheel.

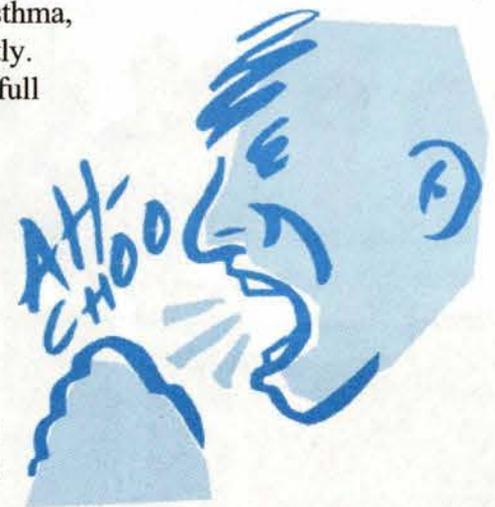
According to a clinical study by the Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound, people using non-prescription

sedating antihistamines are 50% more likely to have a work-related accident than people who use non-sedating antihistamines and natural remedies. Those individuals who drive or operate heavy machinery need to be particularly careful. Sedating antihistamines can cause drowsiness and decreased driving safety.

It's not only our safety that's at risk! Other adverse effects include mood and motivation alterations, diminished performance of tasks and altered cognitive functions. Studies have shown that equivalency rates for sedating antihistamines have been shown to be comparable to a .05 blood alcohol rate.

If you receive a prescription for allergy symptoms, a cold or flu, be sure to ask your health care provider about the medication's side effects and how they may impact your job performance. You may also ask about drug alternatives that safely manage symptoms without a diminished capacity to do your job safely.

Gil Suarez



### 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 Howard Stiefer, IBEW 1245, PO Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696

Current members of the Local 1245 Safety Committee: 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 Howard Stiefer.



**San Jose, CA**  
**March 5, 2005**

**40 Years:** Ron Morris, right, accepts award from Local 1245 President Mike Davis.

**The Honorees**

**50 Years**

Clayton E. Weimer

**40 Years**

James Anderson  
 H Batey  
 Wayne Capps  
 M Clampitt  
 James Folsom  
 William McKinley  
 Ronald Morris  
 R Sharp  
 Jessie Thomas Jr.

**35 Years**

Sandra Brown  
 Terry Bryant  
 William Bullard  
 Alfonso Casas  
 Thomas Cvietkovich  
 David Davis  
 William Ferguson  
 Norman Feyling  
 Joseph Flores  
 Jeffrey Hickey  
 James Jaklich  
 Larry Langfeldt  
 Antonio Lozano  
 Michael Mcginley  
 Harold Mehrer

Steve Mogensen  
 Lonnie Moseley  
 Christopher Ohlson  
 Kenneth Padron  
 Frank Perez  
 Alan Pierce  
 Vincent Revino  
 Ben Rizo  
 Keith Roessler  
 John Sandoval  
 Steven San Fillipo  
 Tom Willis

**30 Years**

Keith Bowman  
 Samuel Brown  
 Michael Bustillos  
 Gilbert Garcia  
 Dawn Garrett  
 Edward Hernandez  
 Jan Langone  
 Dana Mickelson  
 Frank Oclassen  
 Richard Ortiz  
 Barbara Parysek  
 Delores Powell  
 Jose Rodriguez  
 Barry Vetter  
 David Wilcox

**25 Years**

Charles Adams

Vida Anderson  
 Janice Bergh  
 William Brill Jr.  
 Valerie Carter  
 Ralph Citti Jr.,  
 Richard Davis  
 Jose Del Real  
 Kathy Donohue  
 Keith Fisher  
 Emile Gonzales  
 Eugene Guerrero  
 Ralph Guerrero  
 Steven Hart  
 John Ibarra  
 Joy Jones  
 Albert Jordan  
 Douglas Lueck  
 Patricia Lunn  
 Alice Mannina  
 Timothy Monahan  
 Matthew Moscato  
 David Najar  
 Suzy Oka  
 Filomeno Perez  
 Geraldine Raymundo  
 Lee Rice  
 Delena Roan  
 Victor Rodrigo  
 Maria Rogers  
 Joyce Stark  
 Atala Tapia  
 Gary Zuniga



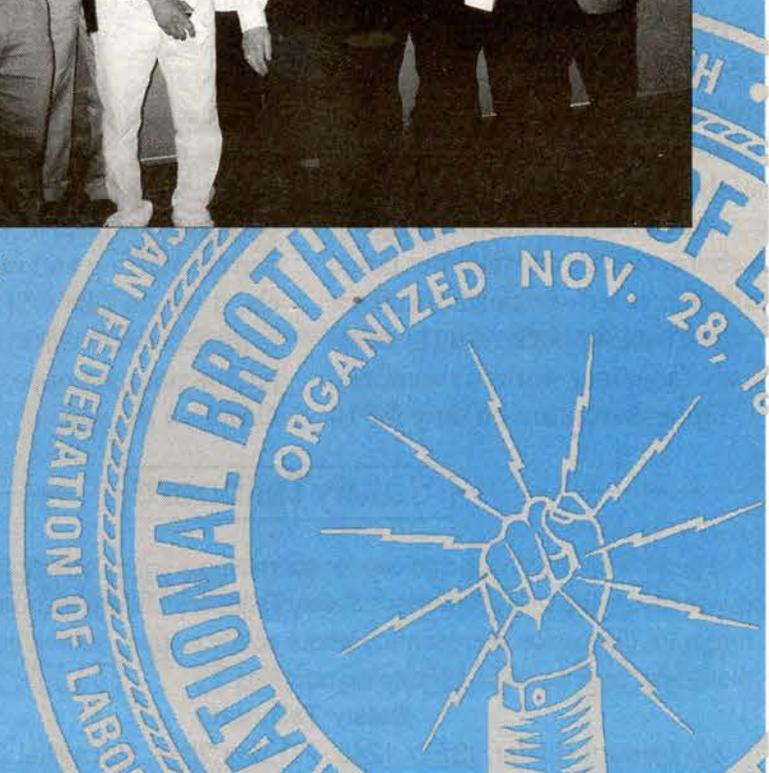
**35 Years**



**30 Years**



**25 Years**





## Majority now opposes Bush Social Security plan

The most recent Washington Post-ABC poll found that only 45% of Americans support the concept of private Social Security accounts, while 51% oppose the idea. Meanwhile, a CBS poll found that only 25% of the public now has confidence in Bush's ability to make the right decisions about Social Security, while 70% are "uneasy."

The polls suggest that the public is seeing through Bush's pumped up rhetoric about the problems facing Social Security. The Hightower Lowdown recently compiled some of the president's more questionable statements about Social Security:

**Bush:** "By the year 2042, the entire system would be exhausted and bankrupt."

**Reality:** Enough new taxes will be coming into the trust fund to pay up to 80% of promised benefits to everyone after 2042 and for the foreseeable future—and that prediction is based on pessimistic assumptions.

**Bush:** Social Security faces a

"crisis" that's unprecedented. "In the year 2018, for the first time ever, Social Security will pay out more in benefits than the government collects in payroll taxes."

**Reality:** In 14 of the past 47 years, Social Security paid more in benefits than it collected in taxes. Cash flow ebbs and flows.

**Bush:** "As we fix Social Security, we also have the responsibility to make the system a better deal for younger workers."

**Reality:** Social Security earns 3% a year on the Treasury bonds it holds. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office calculates that Bush's privatized accounts could deliver a 3.3% return. But even that measly .3% gain would be wiped out by the fees and administrative costs that Wall Street will charge for handling the private accounts. Plus, the CBO did not factor in stock market risks—so the net result is more likely a loss for those who switch to Bush's scheme.

**Bush:** "The role of a president is to confront problems—not pass them on to a future president, future Congress, or future generation."

**Reality:** Bush's plan requires the government to borrow some \$15 trillion to cover the cost of converting to private accounts, thus passing on to future generations a mountain of new debt.

### Rx costs rise

Prescription drug prices increased by 7.1% between 2003 and 2004, or 2.5 times the general inflation rate of 2.7%, according to a study by AARP.

### Reno, Vacaville, Fresno may start chapters

Local 1245 Retirees in Reno, Vacaville and Fresno are exploring the creation of new Local 1245 Retiree Club chapters. If you are interested in participating at one of these locations, please contact the Local 1245 Office Manager at 707-452-2718.

Current meeting locations are:

#### East Bay Chapter:

Meets 2nd Thursday each month, 10 a.m., 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.

## Congratulations!

... to these newly-retired members of IBEW Local 1245. We invite you to join the Local 1245 Retiree Club today! Call 707-452-2718.

Terry Anderson, 32 years  
Orange Cove, CA

Milton Babbitt, 29  
Stockton, CA

Faye Balleza, 31  
San Francisco, CA

Norman Beyk, 28  
Santa Clara, CA

Joan Brannelly, 26  
San Mateo, CA

Joseph Cardamone, 30  
Pleasant Hill, CA

Generoso Carino, 14  
Sacramento, CA

Winnie Choy, 32  
San Francisco, CA

Arthur Christianson, 34  
Folsom, CA

Barbara Cowan, 21  
Lake Almanor, CA

Bernard Cristobal, 29  
Union City, CA

Billy Cullers, 44  
Clovis, CA

Marvin Daniels, 40  
Pismo Beach, CA

Hannah De Herrera, 24  
Lodi, CA

Anthony Dialogo, 33  
Vallejo, CA

Victor Donchenko, 42  
Nice, CA

Felipe Dy, 31  
Daly City, CA

James Everts, 28  
Quitman, CA

Mark Fairbanks, 30  
Petaluma, CA

Sharon Favareille, 23  
Arroyo Grande, CA

William Ferguson, 34  
Morgan Hill, CA

Arthur Freitas, 20  
Santa Cruz, CA

Harold Gill, 34  
Eureka, CA

Don Glzier, 24  
Napa, CA

James Grethen, 35  
San Jose, CA

Timmie Ham, 38  
Manteca, CA

Joan E Hax, 8  
Santa Rosa, CA

Douglas Hickman, 31  
Joseph, OR

Gloria Ingram, 32  
Richmond, CA

Thomas Irving, 34  
Pleasanton, CA

Robert Jessee, 31  
Chico, CA

Donald Johanssen, 33  
Fremont, CA

James Johnston, 37  
Carmel Valley, CA

William Kelly, 35  
Suisun City, CA

Ronald Lamb, 21  
Pismo Beach, CA

Walter LeBaron, 24 years  
Santa Rosa, CA

Joseph Ma, 31  
Daly City, CA

Joseph Madrigal, 38  
Antioch, CA

Robert Martelle, 35  
Pahrump, NV

Robert Martin, 26  
Sparks, NV

Rhodora Mauricio, 31  
Hayward, CA

Charles Mc Alister, 34  
Foresthill, CA

Enrique Mc Allister, 29  
Daly City, CA

Willie Mc Kelvey, 23  
Salinas, CA

Michael Mc Teer, 27  
Montague, CA

John Mireles, 22  
Gerber, CA

Pamela Morris, 31  
Oakland, CA

Lonnie Moseley, 34  
Ben Lomond, CA

Randy Nightingale, 40  
Auburn, CA

Margaret Orozco, 24  
Ripon, CA

Wesley Pearce, 33  
San Bruno, CA

Robert Perkins, 33  
Fresno, CA

Nenita Placido, 31  
Danville, CA

Fidencio Ramirez, 27  
Gridley, CA

Frankie Raney, 29  
Clovis, CA

Romeo Reyes, 34  
Hercules, CA

Vilma Rovillos, 31  
Elk Grove, CA

Robert Steever, 39  
Cool, CA

Joseph Tamony, 2  
Ben Lomond, CA

Pacita Villaluz, 24  
American Canyon, CA

John Warnke, 7  
Manton, CA

Sandra Wong, 31  
San Francisco, CA

# RODEO!

Local 1245 members from three public power agencies brought home honors from the Fifth Annual Public Power Lineworkers' Rodeo in Memphis, Tenn.

The Local 1245 members competed against 60 teams and 69 apprentices from community-owned and not-for-profit utilities across the nation on April 15-16.

In journeyman competition, first place in the Cross Arm Change Out event was awarded to the Turlock Irrigation District team of Mark Pickens, Troy Borges and Bill Stavrianoudakis. Second Place in the Hurt Man Rescue competition was won by the SMUD team of Greg Smelser, Gerald Mankins and Jody Henderson.

Roseville Electric Apprentice Lucas Raley took first place in the Three Phase Fuse Replacement apprentice competition. Roseville Electric Apprentice Tom Pontes took first place in the Obstacle Course apprentice competition.

In the apprentice Hurt Man Rescue competition, second place went to Wesley Katzenstein of Roseville Electric and Third Place went to Robert Jacino of SMUD. Jacino was also awarded fourth place in the overall apprentice competition.

The APPA Public Power Lineworkers' Rodeo is a one-day competitive event started in 2001 by and for public power utilities. The rodeo is hosted by a different public power utility each year.

The rodeo is a series of competitive events demonstrating the safe work practices that lineworkers must carry out at their



Roseville Electric Apprentice Tom Pontes took first in the apprentice Obstacle Course.



First place in the Cross Arm Change Out event was awarded to the Turlock Irrigation District team of Mark Pickens, Troy Borges and Bill Stavrianoudakis.

utilities. There are two levels of competition within the rodeo – journeyman and apprentice. The journeyman teams consist of three members – two climbers and a ground person.

The events are judged based upon safety, work practices, neatness, ability, equipment handling, and timely event completion. Public power employees participate as judges and volunteers.

The next Rodeo will be hosted by Sacramento Municipal Utility District in California on April 7-8, 2006.

Participants this year from SMUD were apprentice linemen Robert Jacino, Val Leslie, Zeb Robbins, and Dan Reed, and journeyman linemen (team 1) Greg Smelser, Gerald Mankins, and Jody Henderson and (team 2) Don Hurdle, Lou Soto, and Ray Padilla.



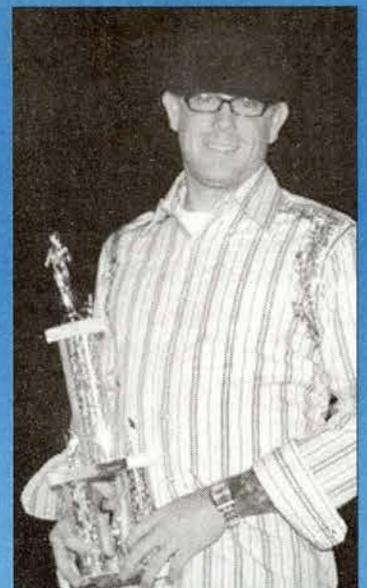
Wesley Katzenstein of Roseville Electric took second place in the apprentice Hurt Man Rescue.



Second Place in the Hurt Man Rescue competition was won by the SMUD team of Greg Smelser, Gerald Mankins and Jody Henderson.



Robert Jacino of SMUD won fourth place in the overall apprentice competition and third place in the apprentice Hurt Man Rescue.



Lucas Raley of Roseville Electric took first place in the apprentice Three Phase Fuse Replacement.