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**News briefs**

**26,000**

Chicago teachers struck the nation's third-largest public school district Sept. 10 over compensation, evaluation procedures, and conditions within the classroom.

**At least 289** workers lost their lives in a garment factory fire in Karachi, Pakistan. Hundreds were trapped inside a building that had metal grilles on the windows and no fire exits. The fire began just hours after another fire killed 25 people at a Lahore, Pakistan shoe factory.

**34 miners** were killed by police during a strike for higher wages at a platinum mine in South Africa, sparking a wave of protests and strikes at other South African mines in September.

**Leaders** from two labor unions climbed 70 meters to the top of silos at an Alcoa aluminum plant that has been targeted for closure in Italy. "They reneged on everything," said Franco Bardi, one of the union leaders.

Get answers to your union questions at:  
[www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com)

# Utility Reporter



**Vote**  
**NO** PROP. 32

**ELECTION**  
Guide Inside

Volume 61 No.4 • Oct-Dec 2012 UNITY IS STRENGTH For up-to-the-minute news visit our website: [www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com)

## Vigilance

Trees could take out the electric system. IBEW Line Clearance Tree Trimmers make sure that doesn't happen. Story on pages 10 and 11.



Photo: John Storey

Miguel Alcazar cuts a large tree down to size. Working above him are Gabino Chavez, Leo Mendoza and Luis Perez.



**Tom Dalzell**  
BUSINESS MANAGER

## Reasons for Hope

There's no denying that our union is facing some very serious challenges. But when I look at how our members have faced up to these challenges, I feel hope for our future.

Line Clearance Tree Trimmers took a bold step forward in September by ratifying a new Master Agreement. This agreement has immediate improvements for most tree trimmers, but even more importantly it gives us a united front for bargaining with tree contractors in the future. Several dozen tree trimmers served on the union's "Yes Committee" that promoted this agreement. This committee, along with all the tree trimmers who made the effort to vote, sent an important message to all of us: unity matters.

There has been other good news

recently. After 12 weeks of very tough negotiations, our members negotiated and ratified a solid agreement at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, an agency we've had an agreement with for 65 years. I recognize that very tough battles continue at Modesto Irrigation District, Turlock Irrigation District and many public sector employers. But the tenacity shown by our members at SMUD inspires me to believe that we will see better days at MID and TID as well because I know for a fact those members are as tough as any in our union.

One of the most exciting developments of the past decade, to me, is happening in our units. We challenged our unit leaders last spring to come up with ways to re-engage and re-energize our members. Already we are seeing the units' potential to become a springboard for sports events, charitable activities, and community engagement. We will take further steps along this road in November with four regional meetings of unit leaders, which will also include some basic instruction in running a meeting for our newer unit leaders.

Finally, this year marks the 10th anniversary of the untimely death of Business Rep. Jim Lynn. Jim understood contracts, he had great rapport with members, and he built productive rela-

tionships with management. I miss him and I know that his pipeline members in

the northwest and Fresno and his fellow workers in Stockton miss him as well.

## Labor journalism awards

Local 1245 won several journalism awards in the International Labor Communications Association competition for work published in 2011.

The Utility Reporter won third place in the General Excellence category for local union publications, and took second place for Best Design.

The photo feature "Twin Monsters"—featuring Line Clearance Tree Trimmers at Trees, Inc.—won third place for Best Photo Essay or Photo Gallery. See the feature on-line at [ibew1245.com/Group\\_Profiles/Trees\\_Inc.pdf](http://ibew1245.com/Group_Profiles/Trees_Inc.pdf).

Communications Director Eric Wolfe took a first place Saul Miller award for Best Political Action Story, "Door to Door Democracy," which showcased the efforts of eight Local 1245 members who traveled to Wisconsin to assist the recall campaign against Gov. Scott Walker. Read the story at [ibew1245.com/news-1245/Door-to-Door-Democracy.pdf](http://ibew1245.com/news-1245/Door-to-Door-Democracy.pdf).

Business Manager Tom Dalzell is Executive Editor of the Utility Reporter; Wolfe is Managing Editor.

### APPOINTMENTS

#### FRONTIER

##### 2012 Bargaining Committee

William Bryan, Bryan Coleman  
Thomas Greer, Eric Tanaka

#### PG&E

##### Helicopter Committee

Shad Baldwin

#### CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS

##### IBEW International Women's Conference

Erika Barron, Lauren Bartlett  
Anna Bayless, Constance Bibbs  
Gloria Burrell, Cecelia De La Torre  
Chris Habecker, Natalia Jonas  
Margie Pimentel, Sheryl White

##### National Safety Council Fall Labor Division Meeting

Dan Boschee, Mike Gomes  
Joe Joaquim, Al White

##### California Labor Federation Convention

Mike Davis, Anna Bayless  
Cecelia De La Torre, Art Freitas  
Lorenzo Arciniega, Steve Gallow  
Jennifer Gray, Donchele Soper  
Kevin Krummes

##### IBEW Ninth District Progress Meeting

Jammi Angeles, Lorenzo Arciniega  
Anna Bayless, Tom Cornell  
Mike Cottrell, Mike Davis  
Cecelia De La Torre, Art Freitas  
Steve Gallow, Jennifer Gray  
Mike Jacobson, Natalia Jonas  
Jose Leal, Pat Patterson  
Veronica Rivera, Donchele Soper

##### Inter-Union Gas Conference

Pat Earl, Mike Frasu, Matt Fritz  
Neil Isley, Joe Joaquim  
Marty Krumle, Randy Lassus  
Leo Lopez, Mike Newsome  
Mike Rapozo, Mike Scafani

### UtilityReporter

October – December 2012  
Volume 61 No. 4  
Circulation: 22,200

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Published bi-monthly at  
30 Orange Tree Circle, Vacaville, CA  
95687. Official publication of Local Union  
1245, International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO, P.O. Box  
2547, Vacaville, CA 95696.

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

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

Single copies \$1. Subscription by  
arrangement. Have you moved recently?  
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Mail) to: "Address Change," IBEW Local  
1245, P.O. Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696.

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Our phone number is  
(707) 452-2700.



## Fund for critically-injured lineman

A fund has been set up at Bank of America to help the family of David Hanson. Anyone wanting to make a donation may visit a local branch of Bank of America. Indicate you want to make a donation to Rachel Hanson, account # 000006507867.

David Hanson, a construction lineman working for Contra Costa Electric, suffered critical injuries in a fall from height. The incident occurred at the

Shell Refinery in Martinez on Aug. 7.

Hanson, 29, is a member of IBEW Local Union 953 and had been working in California for a little over a year. He was part of a 5-man crew working to install a ground-operated switch, which was located in the primary circuit an estimated 50 feet above ground.

Investigations by CalOSHA, Shell Refinery and the employer are all underway.

### CALENDAR

**Oct 6** Last day to register to vote (Nevada) in Nov. 6 General Election

**Oct 13** Lineman's Rodeo, Overland Park, KS

**Oct 20** 1245 Golf Tournament

**Oct 22** Last day to register to vote (California) in Nov. 6 General Election

**Oct 27** Advisory Council, Vacaville

**Nov. 6** GENERAL ELECTION: VOTE!  
"NO ON PROP 32"

**Nov 8** Unit Leader Conf. - Reno

**Nov 9** Unit Leader Conf. - Fresno

**Nov 15** Unit Leader Conf. - Santa Rosa

**Nov 16** Unit Leader Conf. - Vacaville

## Unit meeting changes

**Unit 2311, Oakland**, has changed its unit meeting location back to Francesco's on Hegenberger Road. Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.

*Lou Mennel, Business Rep*

**Unit #3415, Colusa Power Plant**, will now hold its unit meeting every other month. The new date is the 2nd Wednesday of the month and the new start time for the meetings is 4:30 pm. Next regular meeting is Wednesday, November 14. Location is Kim's Diner in Maxwell. The unit has elected new officers: Karl Parker, chair, and Michelle Benjamin, recorder.

*Arlene Edwards, Business Rep*



# Vote "NO" on Proposition 32

**A personal opinion by Helen Gan, 52-year member of IBEW 1245**

**H**ello, I'm Helen Gan, a member of IBEW Local 1245.

I want to persuade you to vote NO on Proposition 32. Prop 32 is a measure that will prohibit unions from contributing to political campaigns. It is part of an attempt, going on all across the country, for businesses to roll back the benefits unionization has given to workers.

I am 76 years old, and have worked for 57 years, 52 of them at PG&E. I am part of the generation who, because of the union, was able to live a good life, buy a house, travel, and have a secure old age.

I'm afraid most people have little knowledge of history, and short memories, not knowing how unions lobbied long and hard for us to get the benefits we have today.

In 1912, my mother was seven years old when she went to work in a cannery, here in San Francisco, cleaning shrimp until midnight or two in the morning. When she was twelve, she started working in a sewing factory. These jobs were piece work, with no benefits and no limit on the hours worked.

In 1920, the government declared that advocating an eight-hour day was treason, and thousands of people were arrested, thrown into jail, and held, per-

haps for months, without trial.

In 1929, the Supreme Court declared that trying to limit the number of hours a child worked was unconstitutional.

Since then, the benefits we have today, Social Security, unemployment insurance, and all the rest, came into law because unions fought for them.

In 1960, PG&E was an all-white company, mostly Irish, many related, with perhaps three generations of the same family working there. I was one of the first non-whites they hired.

I, and a few other Chinese, were only hired because the union had worked for affirmative action. Still PG&E hired no blacks. They did hire a couple of Hawaiians, and tried to pass them off as black. Only when the union threatened lawsuits did PG&E start hiring all minorities.

My first day at PG&E, the supervisor told me "now your name is O'Gan, go join the rest of the Irish!" Then he snapped my bra strap. Today, he would be sued for harassment, but that is how things were back then.

There was a dress code, dresses only, no pants. If you came to work not wearing stockings, you were sent home. For men, white shirt, dark suit, tie, and no beard.

When affirmative action came in, Chinese women were the first hired. The company figured that Chinese girls would be quiet. And not create problems. Boy, were they in for a surprise!

Chinese women are strong, not the china dolls seen in movies; as soon as we had an issue, we hollered for the shop steward. On my first job evaluation, the supervisor noted, "She is a fast and accurate keypunch operator, but she is defiant."

I don't understand those people who do not pay union dues, but are pleased to take the benefits the unions bring them. Don't they see that companies give nothing unless the union fought for it?

Companies are constantly trying to cut back on benefits, eliminating union workers and hiring non-union "analysts," cutting job classifications and reducing all office workers to "utility clerks," increasing the amount workers contribute to health plans, reducing pension benefits.

Meanwhile, at PG&E, stocks have never been higher, profits greater, and CEO's paid so much. The workers have never "lost their way," it was the many company officers, who left, after a short time on the job, with multi-million dol-

lar golden handshakes, who "lost the way."

The only way unions can influence laws is through lobbying legislators. Without contributing to political campaigns, you would have no:

Social security, minimum wage laws, pension plans, eight-hour days, forty-hour week, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, health and safety rules, equal pay for equal work, job seniority, paid vacations, sick leave, no discrimination because of race, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation. Now there is no dress code. You can wear whatever you like, or have a beard – regardless of your sex.

I can't understand why people vote against their own interest. If Proposition 32 passes, it will be followed by many other laws reducing union activities and eroding your benefits.

For your own sake, for the sake of your children or grandchildren entering the work force, for workers everywhere, Vote NO on Prop 32.

**Volunteer to fight Prop 32. Contact Jennifer Gray at 916-796-3309 or by email at [j2g8@ibew1245.com](mailto:j2g8@ibew1245.com)**

# SMUD pact ratified

Members overwhelmingly ratified a new agreement with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District on Aug. 29, ending 12 consecutive weeks of negotiations.

Turnout for the vote was 83%, with 94% voting in favor.

The agreement provides wage hikes, when compounded over the five-year term, of 17.33%.

Other provisions include additional employer monthly contributions to employee 401(k) funds, and an employer contribution of \$600 per year into a Flexible Spending Account for vision, dental and medical. The agreement also provides a new orthodontia benefit, a new boot allowance, and an increased reimbursement for tuition.

Employee contributions to the PERS benefit will be phased in over the five-year term, reaching 7% in the fifth year. The employee share of HMO health care premiums will rise from 6% in 2013, to 8% in 2014 and 2015, and to 9% in 2016 and 2017.

Bargaining for the union were Scott Barker, Mike Gallagher, John Moe, Jim Notman, Cory Smith, Dan White, and Business Rep. Sam Glero.

Serving on the union ballot committee were Art Torres (judge), Dan Currier, Julie Shipman, Darin Huartson, Dave Palmer, Owen Yven, Mark Flanders, John Basil and Robert Winney.



Local 1245 members at City of Shasta Lake, from left: Adam Osborn, Dennis Larsen, Ben Fisher, Cory Harper, Dave Vandermeer, and Will Gratteau, along with Assistant Business Manager Ray Thomas and Business Rep. Sheila Lawton.

## PG&E Physical, Benefits packages ratified

Members ratified new Physical and Benefits agreements with PG&E in a mail ballot counted July 25.

The Physical agreement provides wage increases of 2.75% at the beginning of 2012, 2013 and 2014. The current year wage increase was retroactive to the beginning of the year.

The Physical agreement suspended itemized receipt requirements and menu restrictions for meals \$30 or less, and established a joint Meals Committee to develop joint recommendations to modify the meal provisions.

In other provisions, the Physical agreement improved funeral leave language, improved Title 300 travel allowance, provided wage adjustments for various classifications with additional job duties, and converted the Commercial Drivers' License premium to an hourly rate and extended this rate to additional classifications.

A fuller summary of the agreement can be viewed at [www.ibew1245.com/news-PGE/Union\\_Summary\\_Physical\\_6-13-12.pdf](http://www.ibew1245.com/news-PGE/Union_Summary_Physical_6-13-12.pdf).

The Benefits agreement maintained the monthly medical premium copay at 7.5% for 2013 and 2014, while crafting a new approach to medical benefits that emphasizes free preventative health care and the establishment of health care reimbursement accounts. The agreement also creates a cash balance pension plan for future employees, with current employees being able to convert to the cash balance plan on a strictly optional basis.

A fuller summary of the Benefits agreement can be viewed at [www.ibew1245.com/news-PGE/Union\\_Summary\\_Benefits\\_and\\_Cash\\_Balance\\_6-4-12.pdf](http://www.ibew1245.com/news-PGE/Union_Summary_Benefits_and_Cash_Balance_6-4-12.pdf).

The Physical agreement passed on a vote of 2411-1563, with 22 void ballots. The Benefits agreement passed 2408-2346, with 31 void ballots.

## Members ratify Shasta Lake pact

Local 1245 members at the City of Shasta Lake on Aug. 8 unanimously ratified a new four-year Memorandum of Understanding. The new agreement includes the following terms:

- Upon certification, all IBEW 1245 Journeymen will receive 6% rubber glove incentive, which will be in addition to the Journeyman's base rate of pay. The City is to pay for all certification.
- Retroactive to July 1, 2012, employees will pay their 8% Cal-PERS member contribution (benefit formula 3%@60) in exchange for a Jan. 1, 2012 retroactive 6.56% general wage increase to all IBEW 1245-represented employees.
- With GIS training (to be completed within 45 days of ratification) the current Administrative Services Assistant shall be reclassified to the new classification Electric Line Staking Technician, which includes a 5% increase in pay to 80% of the non-rubber glove Journeyman Lineman rate.
- Effective July 1, 2014, all Journeymen Lineman classifications will receive a general wage increase equal to the

average July 1, 2014 non-rubber glove wage rates for Journeymen Linemen at the following properties: Trinity PUD; Lassen MUD; Plumas Sierra REC.

- The Standard Short Term Disability Policy will be amended to permit IBEW 1245-represented employees to be eligible for short-term disability after a two-week period (formerly employees had to utilize all of their accumulated sick leave to be eligible for short term disability).

Other provisions dealt with life insurance, vesting in retiree medical benefits, dental insurance, and using sick leave for spousal pregnancy-related leave. More detailed information on these provisions can be seen at [www.ibew1245.com/news-PublicSector/Shasta\\_Lake\\_Pact\\_8-16-12.html](http://www.ibew1245.com/news-PublicSector/Shasta_Lake_Pact_8-16-12.html).

The agreement is effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2016. Serving on the union's negotiating team were Assistant Business Manager Ray Thomas, Business Representative Sheila Lawton and Local 1245 Shop Steward Dave Vandermeer.



Never volunteered before? This is your chance to make a real difference! Help us defeat Prop 32.

Visit [www.ibew1245.com/news-Local1245/Vote\\_pledge](http://www.ibew1245.com/news-Local1245/Vote_pledge)  
Or contact Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Gray at [916-796-3309](tel:916-796-3309) or by email at [j2g8@ibew1245.com](mailto:j2g8@ibew1245.com)

# Members ratify Master Agreement

Line Clearance Tree Trimmers have ratified an historic Master Agreement that puts all IBEW Local 1245 members at the major tree contractors under the same agreement.

The vote was 447-98 to accept the agreement.

Achieving the groundbreaking Master Agreement has been a long-time goal of the union because it gives Line Clearance Tree Trimmers a unified front and greater power in future contract negotiations. Senior Assistant Business Manager Ron Cochran led the negotiations that culminated in the mail-ballot ratification, counted on Sept. 14.

The agreement—which applies to members at Davey Tree, Asplundh Tree, Utility Tree, Wright Tree, and Trees Inc.—assures gains for all Line Clearance Tree Trimmers during the 5-year term of the agreement.

In general, the Master Agreement:

- Secures wages for five years, with 10% to 14% wage increases over the term, including adjustments tied to the Consumer Price Index in years four and five.
- Provides a high-quality Lineco/Blue Cross medical plan at all major IBEW-represented Line Clearance companies—with no monthly contribution by employees—and protects family medical coverage even when a different tree contractor wins the bid to do the work.
- Secures the IBEW 1245 Money Purchase Pension Plan, with company contributions equaling 3% of employee's annual wage.
- Provides annual Safety Bonus Award

equal to 1% of employee's salary, paid quarterly.

The union made a major effort to make sure that all 1,005 of its tree trimmers had an opportunity to learn details of the historic agreement before voting on it.

Business Representatives Carl Lamers and Junior Ornelas—utilizing bi-lingual materials—informed members about the merits of the Master Agreement through unit meetings, special meetings, and extensive yard visits. They were assisted by temporary Business Representatives Justin Casey and John Simms. Three special events were held in Vacaville, Fresno, and Santa Rosa to give members and their families an additional opportunity to learn more about the agreement.

IBEW 1245 staff members Fred Ross, Eileen Purcell, Liz McInnis and Ralph Armstrong worked with tree trimmer leaders to recruit and train a 42-member “Yes Committee” to encourage member participation in the ratification vote. The “Yes Committee” met twice at Weakley Hall, where they discussed the historic significance of the agreement with Cochran and Business Manager Tom Dalzell.

“This is an historic agreement, which makes it possible for us to negotiate better working conditions, wages and benefits for our members in the trees, who do some of the most hazardous and difficult work in our union,” Dalzell said after the ratification vote was counted. “It was also an unprecedented, broad-based outreach effort led by staff and the Vote Yes committee.”

Dalzell called the ratification of the Master Agreement “a great day for IBEW 1245.”

# Los miembros ratifican el Acuerdo Maestro

Los Podadores de Árboles para el Despeje de Líneas ratificaron el histórico Acuerdo Maestro que aplicará a los miembros del IBEW Local 1245 de las principales compañías contratistas de árboles.

Los resultados de la votación fueron 447-98 a favor del acuerdo.

Desde hace mucho tiempo, el sindicato había tenido como objetivo lograr un Acuerdo Maestro ya que de esta manera los Podadores de Árboles para el Despeje de Líneas presentan un frente unido y tienen mayor poder a la hora de negociar contratos futuros. El Gerente Asistente de Negocios Senior Ron Cochran dirigió las negociaciones que culminaron con la ratificación por votación, los cuales se totalizaron el 14 de septiembre.

El acuerdo—el cual aplica a los miembros de Davey Tree, Asplundh Tree, Utility Tree, Wright Tree, y Trees Inc.—garantiza ganancias para todos los Podadores de Árboles para el Despeje de Líneas durante los 5 años de duración del acuerdo.

En general, el Acuerdo Maestro:

- Garantiza los salarios durante 5 años, con aumentos salariales entre 10% y 14% durante el periodo, incluyendo ajustes atados al Índice de Precios al Consumidor en los años 4 y 5.
- Ofrece un plan médico de alta calidad con Lineco/Blue Cross para las principales compañías de Despeje de Líneas que tienen representantes del IBEW—sin contribución mensual por parte de los empleados—y protege la cobertura médica familiar aún si un contratista diferente gana la licitación para ejecutar el trabajo.

• Garantiza el Plan de Jubilación de Aportación Definida del IBEW 1245, con contribuciones de la compañía iguales al 3% del salario anual del empleado..

• Bono de Seguridad Anual igual al 1% del salario del empleado, pagado trimestralmente.

El sindicato realizó un gran esfuerzo para asegurar que los 1,005 podadores de árboles tuvieran la oportunidad de conocer los detalles del acuerdo histórico antes de la votación.

Los Representantes de Negocios Carl Lamers y Junior Ornelas—utilizando material bilingüe—informaron a los miembros sobre las ventajas del Acuerdo Maestro mediante reuniones de las unidades, reuniones especiales y visitas a los patios. Los Representantes de Negocios temporales Justin Casey y John Simms también colaboraron en este esfuerzo. Los tres eventos especiales se llevaron a cabo en Vacaville, Fresno y Santa Rosa para ofrecer a los miembros y a sus familiares una oportunidad adicional de obtener mayor información sobre el acuerdo.

Fred Ross, Eileen Purcell, Liz McInnis y Ralph Armstrong, miembros del personal del IBEW 1245, trabajaron junto con los líderes de los podadores de árboles para reclutar y capacitar a 42 miembros del Comité para el “Sí”, para motivar a los miembros a participar en la votación para la ratificación del acuerdo. El Comité para el “Sí” se reunió dos veces en Weakley Hall, donde hablaron sobre el significado histórico del acuerdo con Cochran y con el Gerente de Negocios Tom Dalzell.

“Éste es un acuerdo histórico que nos permite negociar mejores condiciones laborales, salarios y beneficios para nuestros miembros en los árboles, quienes ejecutan uno de los trabajos más peligrosos y difíciles en nuestro sindicato,” comentó Dalzell después de finalizar el conteo de la votación para la ratificación. “Fue también un esfuerzo sin precedentes y de amplio alcance dirigido por el personal y por el comité para el “Sí”.”

Dalzell calificó la ratificación del Acuerdo Maestro como “un gran día para el IBEW 1245.”

El Comité para el “Sí” se reunió en Weakley Hall en Vacaville el 10 de agosto para discutir la ratificación del Acuerdo Maestro.



The “Yes Committee” meets at Weakley Hall in Vacaville on Aug. 10 to discuss ratification of the Master Agreement.



Mike Valerio, right, helps Anthony Jones with his harness.

There is a spectacular view and plenty of blue sky when a Local 1245 telecom crew arrives on the roof of PG&E headquarters at 77 Beale in downtown San Francisco.

But these telecom specialists didn't come up for the view. They came to install a new antenna for Cornerstone—the PG&E program launched in 2010 to increase grid flexibility, mitigate outages and improve system reliability.

“This is one of the sites where we're going to put a radio. It collects all this data and it's all used for control and monitoring of the electric grid,” says Eric Burk, a Telecom Foreman and 22-year IBEW member. In short, it's part of the communications technology that helps PG&E understand what's happening in its system at any given time.

But that radio, located downstairs, won't be listening or talking to anybody without an antenna. Working with Burk on the roof-top installation are Comm Techs Mike Valerio, a 15-year IBEW member; Issac Taylor, 9 years; and Anthony Jones, 3 years.

The installation, performed on March 2, is relatively straight-forward, taking only a few hours. The job is made easier by the fact that there is already some existing coax cable coming up to the tower.

In this line of work you can't take any task for granted, especially when there's climbing involved. The crew starts the job with a tailboard where they review the tasks to be performed, and also the



Anthony Jones and Mike Valerio preparing to install the new antenna.



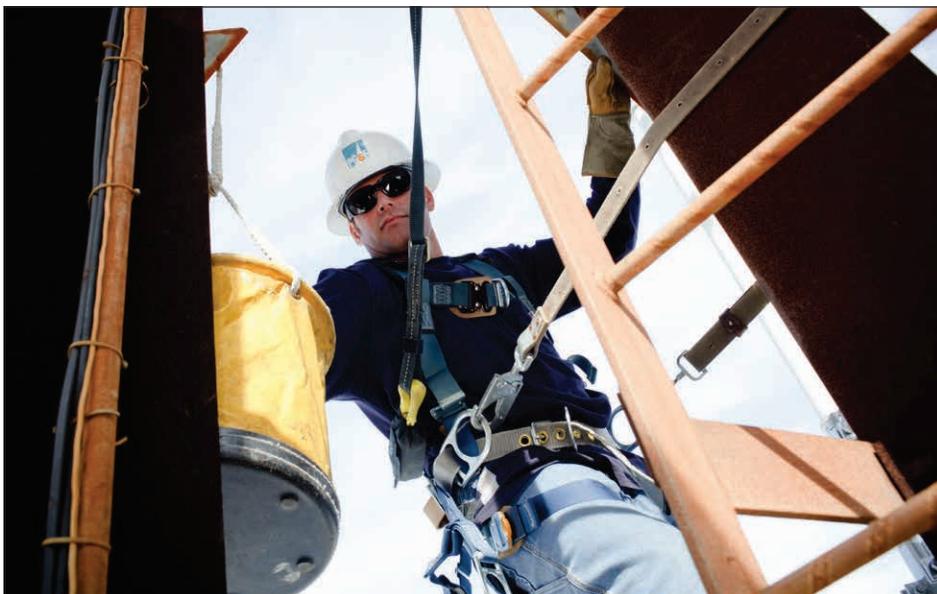
Eric Burk, left, and Mike Valerio check out where the antenna is to be installed.

emergency procedures that would be followed in the event something goes wrong.

Besides antennae and other telecommunications equipment, the Cornerstone project will bring improvements to power transformers, overhead and underground conductors and switches, line reclosers, line cutouts and fuses, and circuit breakers—part of the PG&E's overall effort to protect system reliability into the future.



Eric Burk, left, and Issac Taylor.



Mike Valerio



Anthony Jones and Mike Valerio.



Issac Taylor

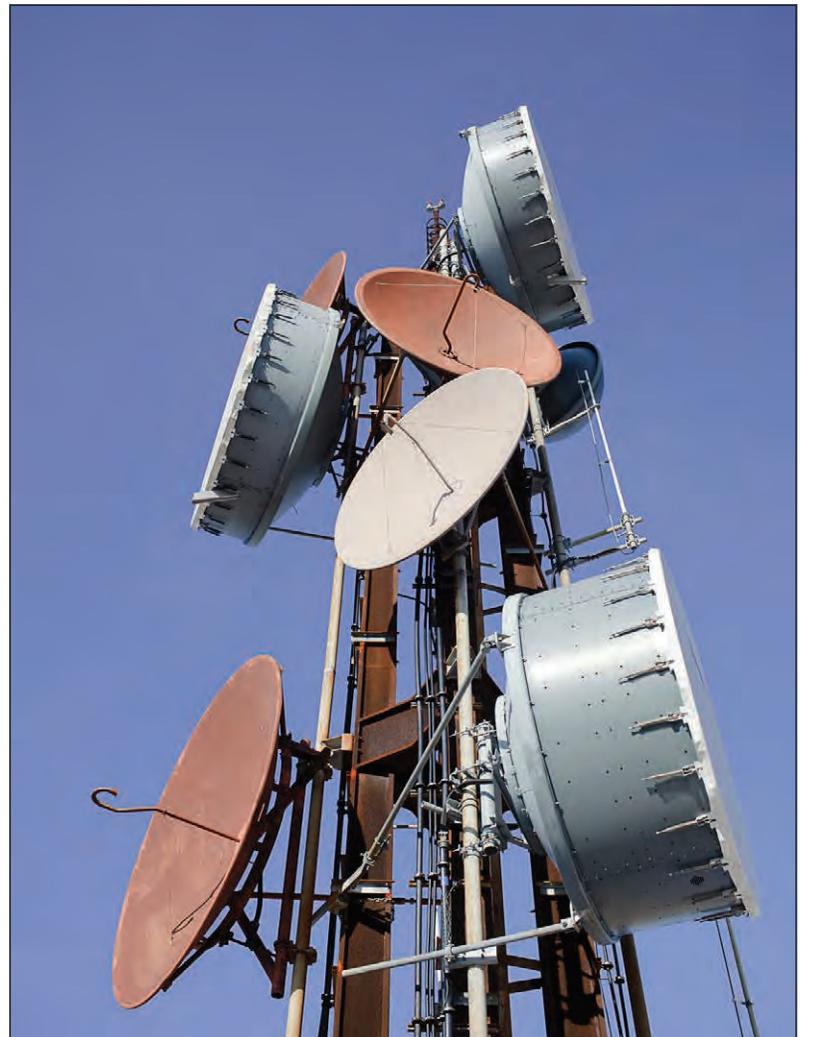


Anthony Jones works on the antenna installation.



Anthony Jones and Mike Valerio.

Photos by Michelle Frankfurter



Communications equipment on top of 77 Beale permits PG&E to gather information from around its system.



Atop 77 Beale Street in San Francisco, with the Bay Bridge in the background are, from left: Mike Valerio, Anthony Jones, Eric Burk and Issac Taylor.

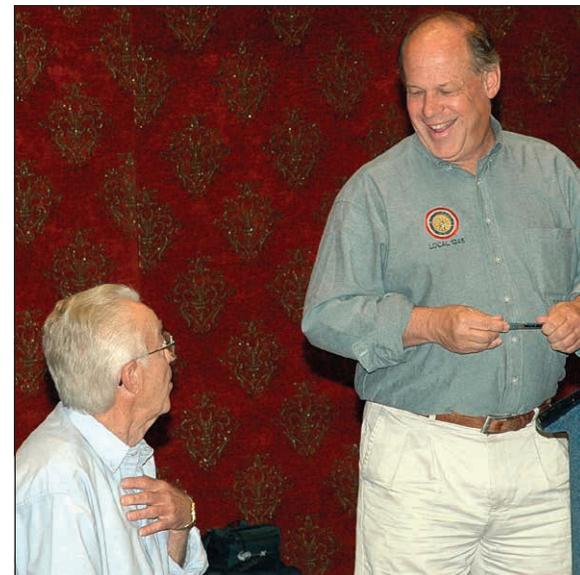


Michelle Benuzzi reports on latest developments at NV Energy. At left is Charles Forbes, representing Local 1245 members at Western Area Power Administration.

*IBEW Local 1245 celebrated some of its local heroes and laid plans to tackle future challenges during the union's Advisory Council meeting in Reno on July 28.*

*Business Manager Tom Dalzell warned that Proposition 32, on the California ballot in November, would silence the voice of workers in state politics, making us vulnerable to attacks on our benefits and even our right to engage in collective bargaining.*

*Dalzell noted the recent passage of the PG&E Physical and Benefits agreements, and told delegates of a new Master Agreement for line clearance tree trimmers that will strengthen the union's hand in future bargaining with tree trimmer contractors. (See page 5)*



Business Manager Tom Dalzell, right, and President Mike Davis, share a lighter moment.

Reno, NV – July 28, 2012

## SCENES FROM ADVISORY COUNCIL



Anthony Brown, who was sworn in as an Advisory Council member in April, speaks up. From left: Mike Jessen, PG&E DeSabra Division; Peggy Daniel, PG&E Pipeline Operations; Robert Harty, PG&E Stockton Division and City of Lodi; Jim Findley, PG&E North Bay Division and City of Healdsburg; and Anthony Brown, PG&E East Bay Division and Foster-Wheeler.



Receiving praise for their efforts on behalf of the Local 1245 Retirees Club and their involvement in the Alliance for Retired Americans are, from left: Tom Bird (Nevada), and Ken Rawles and Bill Wallace (California).



Three new members of the Advisory Council were sworn in. From left: President Mike Davis administers the oath to Jeff Campodonico, representing PG&E Sacramento; Keith Jacques, representing Citizens Communications (Frontier); and Avery Clifton, representing PG&E's old Drum Division.

### Building a Stronger Union

By Lauren Bartlett

Remember: There is a **"U"** in Union!

What can **U** do?

**U** can get involved

**U** can attend your local meetings

**U** can read your collective bargaining agreement

**U** can read the IBEW Bylaws and IBEW Constitution

**U** can read your Union Boards. Get knowledge and stay informed!

**U** can vote in elections of officers

**U** can vote during contract negotiations. Voting is your Voice!

**U** can write proposals during negotiations. Your ideas are important!

**U** can volunteer, and dedicate your time

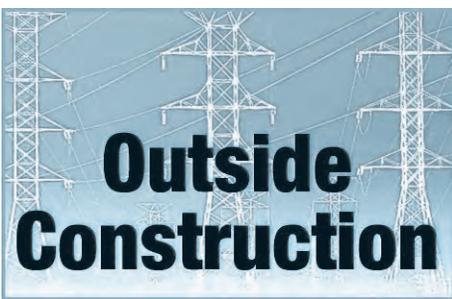
**U** can become a shop steward or officer

**U** can get to know the people who represent you

**SHOW THE UNION WHO **U** ARE AND REMEMBER: THERE IS A **U** IN **UNION!****



Nevada retiree activists honored at the meeting were, from left, Ron Borst, Tom Bird (in red shirt, behind Borst), Vickie Borst, Tom Young (PG&E retiree), Bud Gray, Frank Isturis, Mike Armstrong, and Rita Weisshaar. Business Manager Tom Dalzell praised their "hard work and dedication and courage" in defending retiree benefits at NV Energy: "This group here has showed us all what it is to be union. They've got the union gene, every one of them. They've got the stand up and fight back gene, too."



## Work remains very steady

By Ron Cochran

Work remains very steady. There is a little of everything going on right now, from pole replacement work to thermostat replacement work with a lot in between.

Local 1245 has created a level playing field for all the contractors to work from with PG&E's help through LA09-41.

We are starting to see some contractors using Inside rates for Outside work in the substations. It seems someone is always trying to game the system to gain a competitive advantage. This issue has escalated to the National NECA level and we are wasting man-



Ron Cochran

hours dealing with this. We find it very intriguing that the contractor in question had no PG&E work until LA09-41 was executed and now has just a small amount of work. It all boils down to greed.

The 50MW phase of the PG&E Solar Projects is just starting to ramp up. Cupertino Electric was awarded two of the sites with the third to be determined. Cupertino has sub-contracted some of the work out to Machado & Sons, KVA, TTR and Underground Construction. We expect when all 3 solar projects are going that they will employ upwards of 300-400 members.

We signed the following contractors in the month of August:

Integrity Data & Fiber Inc – Communication & Installer Agreement  
Peter's Drilling & Pump Service, Inc – One-time PLA to the OSL agreement

### Recent Grievances

There is a lot of activity, with around a dozen grievances at Step I and Step II. A couple of Grievances have advanced to Step III. For the most part the NVE AMI project has not gone very well; it borders on a hostile work place. We're getting several phone calls a day from that project. We recently fought two different OSL termination cases that involved apprentice linemen. Both cases were overturned.

We have a wrongful termination grievance headed into Step 4 of the process against OSMOSE Utility

Services, which centers around an employee not meeting the company-imposed daily quotas. Paycheck issues are also occurring on a routine basis and we continue to work through those issues as they arise and we are made aware of them.

### Other News

- The International Lineman's Rodeo will be held Oct. 10-14, 2012, in Overland Park, KS. Local 1245 members will be participating.
- The Local 1245 Golf Tournament will be held Oct. 20, 2012, in Vacaville, CA.
- The balance in the Injured Workers Fund as of July 31, 2012 was \$474,166.13. We had no claims submitted in the month of August.

### Apprentices

We currently have 285 outside line apprentices registered in our JATC program.

- 3 traveling apprentice working in our jurisdiction.
- 99 apprentices are working out of Local 1245
- 149 are working out of Local 47
- 16 are working out of Local 396
- 24 are off of work (3 are on disability - 10 are on leave of absence)
- 27 apprentices have graduated this year to journeyman lineman.
- 14 outside line apprentices have been indentured this year.

We have 3 traffic signal maintenance apprentices registered.

- 1 is working for Republic Electric in Local 1245's jurisdiction.
- 2 are working for Republic Electric in Local 47's jurisdiction.
- 17 traffic signal apprentices have graduated this year.

### Dispatch

	As of 8/31/12	Year to Date
Lineman	176	957
Apprentice Lineman	23	148
Equipment Man	22	149
Groundman	63	480
Fabricator Tech	18	193
Cable Splicer	2	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>1965</b>

### Out of Work Books

as of August, 31, 2012

BOOK #					
L-1	21	CS-1	5	F-1	3
L-2	53	CS-2	9	F-2	32
L-3	1	CS-3	1		
L-4	42				
		GM-1	14		
ES-1	3	GM-2	17		
ES-2	4	GM-3	258		
ES-3	13	GM-4	280		

### Training Schedule

OHSA ETD Classes: Members can sign up in our dispatch office for any up-coming classes offered through the Cal-Nev JATC. Members will be contacted directly by the JATC regarding dates and location of future trainings. Future classes will be held at the Hedge Road facility.

First Aid & CPR is the 2nd Saturday of every month at our Riverside and Sacramento facility.

## Pension Benefit Fund

As directed by the International Convention in 2011, effective January 1, 2013, there will be an increase of one dollar (\$1.00) for the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) contribution, which applies to "A" members only.

There will be no change in the per capita that is paid to the General Fund, and therefore, the rate for all "BA" members shall remain the same.

The complete announcement from International President Hill can be viewed at [www.ibew1245.com/news-Outside/Pension\\_Contribution.pdf](http://www.ibew1245.com/news-Outside/Pension_Contribution.pdf).

### Associate membership available to employees 50 or older

## Not retired yet? You can still join the Retirees Club—and should!

The IBEW Local 1245 Retiree Clubs have a deal for you.

If you're 50 years old or older, you can sign up as an "associate member" and begin to enjoy what the Retiree Clubs have to offer. That includes a package of "Union-Plus" benefits designed by the IBEW especially for retired union members, and access to a wealth of information about the federal benefits you're entitled to.

"When you become an associate member of one of our chapters, you automatically become a member of the Alliance for Retired Americans," explains Tom Bird, president of the Yerington Chapter of the IBEW 1245 Retirees Club.

"The Alliance has all the latest information about the benefits we're all looking forward to—our Medicare and our Social Security. Some people may not be aware of the current threat to these benefits and the things we're doing to try to preserve them," Bird said.

By joining the Retiree Club now,

you lend your support to the growing movement to defend these benefits from politicians who want to take them away.

The Union-Plus program makes a variety of services available to IBEW members at steep discounts—from legal counseling, to low-interest credit cards, to gifts and flowers and much more. Your membership in the Retirees Club assures your continuing access to these money-saving deals.

"We want to encourage workers who still have a few years left on the job to start thinking now about some of the challenges that await retirees, and to understand that we can meet these challenges better if we are united, just like we were stronger in the workplace by being united," said Bird.

"Some people feel so defeated that they're going to lose Social Security and Medicare and don't know what the future holds," Bird said. "The good news is that retirees are getting organ-

ized to protect our benefits, and there's no need to wait until retirement to make your voice heard on these issues."

Local 1245 members who are still working can become an Associate Member of the Retirees Club for just \$36 a year, the same low price as regular retired members.

"Benjamin Franklin said we have to hang together or we will all surely hang separately," said Bird. "The Retirees Club is how we hang together as retired IBEW members and continue to make our collective voice heard. We encourage anyone who has retirement in their sights to go ahead and make the leap now—join the Retirees Club."

Retired Local 1245 members, and active Local 1245 members who are 50 years or older, can join the Retirees Club by e-mailing Tonya Alston at [TFA3@ibew1245.com](mailto:TFA3@ibew1245.com), calling her at 707-452-2718, or writing to her at IBEW Retirees Club, P.O. Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696.

# Vigilance

Trees could take out the electric system. IBEW Line Clearance Tree Trimmers make sure that doesn't happen.



Gabino Chavez cuts his way through a thicket of young growth.



Luis Perez, cutting close to the ground.



Leo Mendoza.



Para conseguir una version de este articulo en español, vaya a este sitio: [www.ibew1245.com/news-TreeTrimmers/Vigilance-SP.pdf](http://www.ibew1245.com/news-TreeTrimmers/Vigilance-SP.pdf).

**T**rees and power lines don't mix. Well, they sometimes mix, but the results can be disastrous. That's why IBEW Local 1245 line clearance tree trimmers try to keep the two apart.

In May, an IBEW crew from Davey Tree Surgery worked for several days in Castro Valley, near Crow Canyon Road, removing trees underneath 230 KV transmission lines. Any tree with the potential of approaching within 10 feet of the lines had to go.

"These lines are nationally connected to the power grid," said Sid Sanchez, a transmission supervisor for Davey and a former IBEW 1245 tree trimmer. A single contact between a tree and one of the lines "could knock out the whole grid system in the country," he said.

Sanchez isn't exaggerating. In 2003, a high-voltage power line in northern Ohio brushed against some overgrown trees and shut down, leading to a cascade of failures throughout southeastern Canada and eight northeastern states. It was the biggest blackout in North American history, costing an estimated \$6 billion and contributing to at least 11 deaths. Fifty million people lost power for up to two days.

Skilled line clearance tree trimmers are the nation's chief defense in preventing a repeat of this man-made disaster.

Under the guidance of Foreman Miguel Alcazar, the Davey crew removed "incompatible" species—meaning those with the potential to reach the power lines. These included oak, acacia and bottle brush.

Working with Alcazar were Foreman Gabino Chavez and Climbers Luis Perez and Leonel Mendoza. Because the trees needed to be removed completely, the crew worked from the ground—felling the trees with saws and dragging them to the chipper.

This particular land owner wanted the



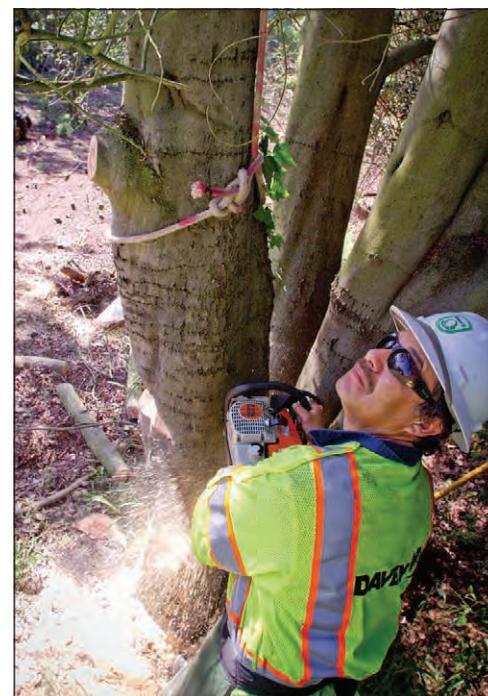
**ABOVE AND RIGHT: Miguel Alcazar works on some of the larger growth.**

chips left on his property. That was welcome news—it saved the crew the trouble of having to haul them away.

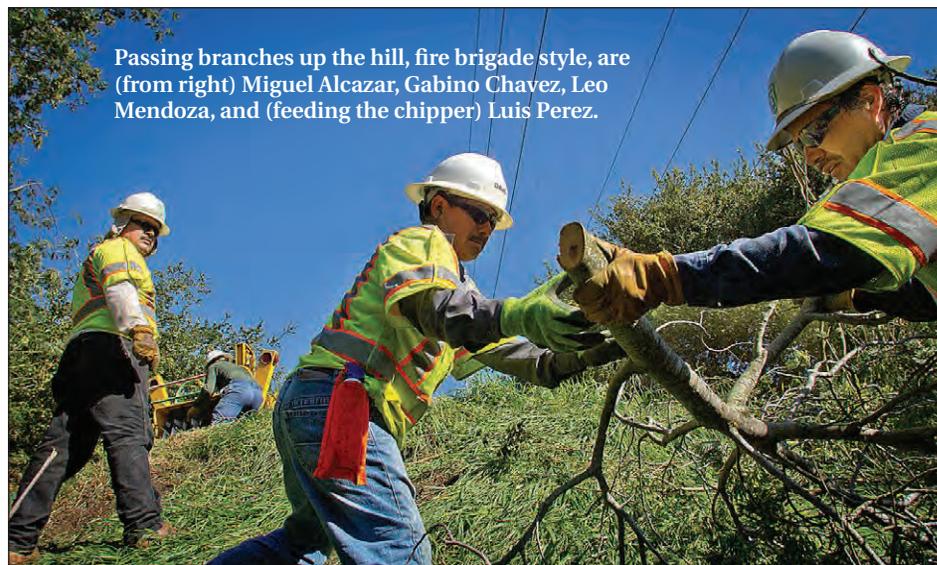
Fire is a big concern on a job like this. The crew is required to keep fire gear within 25 feet of the work zone, according to Sanchez. "Cutting with the chains, it can spark a fire. Every crew has two fire extinguishers, a spade shovel and a water backpack," he said.

Trees, of course, have an important place in our lives. But one place we don't want them is in our electric lines, threatening the reliability of the power grid. The vigilance of IBEW line clearance tree trimmers keeps that threat contained.

Photos by John Storey



**Passing branches up the hill, fire brigade style, are (from right) Miguel Alcazar, Gabino Chavez, Leo Mendoza, and (feeding the chipper) Luis Perez.**



**The crew, from left: Luis Perez, Miguel Alcazar, Leo Mendoza and Gabino Chavez.**

## Working safe

Working safely is a serious responsibility for line clearance tree trimmers. Power saws, the threat of falls, snakes, dehydration and heat stroke are all potential threats. IBEW Local 1245's "Keep the Clearance" committee is a new union initiative that encourages members to look out for one another's safety on the job. If a threat to safety is spotted, members are urged to stop work until the threat can be discussed and dealt with. Members can also discuss any safety concern with specially-designated "safety stewards" or with members of the Keep the Clearance committee.



**Gabino Chavez hauls cut trees to the chipper.**



**IBEW 1245 Communications Director captures the work on video. View it at [www.ibew1245.com/video-files/videos.html](http://www.ibew1245.com/video-files/videos.html).**



## First Annual IBEW 1245 Sporting Clays Shoot

June 16, 2012

# Fun and fraternity

The competition was strictly friendly when about 130 union members got together in Dunnigan, CA for the First Annual IBEW Local 1245 Sporting Clays Shoot.

For one thing, the only money on the line was going to charity. For another, a lot of these guys had never fired at a sporting clay in their life.

"I've done some handgun shooting. This is the first clay shoot," said Jose Leal, a PG&E Gas Service Rep in Cupertino and an 8-year IBEW member.

"I prefer fly fishing," said Duane Dickerson, a Light Rail Technician at Sacramento Regional Transit and first-time clay shooter.

"I'm a target shooter," confessed Aser Tolentino, also a Light Rail Technician at SRT. When the target is moving, he said, "it's quite challenging."

So why come all the way out on a wind-blown Saturday to Dunnigan where the predicted high was 106 degrees?

"I'm here to have some fun with my co-workers and union brothers," said Leal.

Fun and fraternity, that is exactly what the union had in mind in organizing the event.

"We're not shooting for money," said IBEW 1245 Senior Assistant Business Manager Ron Cochran. "Local 1245's major goal is that money is going back into the community."

The Clays Shoot also provided a chance for Local 1245 members to spend time with IBEW members from Locals 6, 302, 332, and 340, as well as union members from the Operating Engineers, Laborers and Plumbers and Pipefitters.

"There's no pressure, just a lot of good fun for everybody," said IBEW Local 1245 Assistant Business Manager Bob Dean.

Participating alongside the union members were six pre-apprentices from the Cypress Mandela Training Center. Donna Miller, an administrator with the program, said the Clays Shoot was a great way for these students to spend time with people from the trades they hoped to someday join.

By noon everyone was ready to get out of the sun, sit down to a delicious barbecue lunch, and wait for the dozens of raffle prizes to be awarded. Among the prizes were gun safes, trap throwers, cigars, wine, and a wide assortment of guns. One of the winners was Heidi Swenson, a recent graduate of Cypress Mandela.

"I won a shotgun today and I feel really great about it. I'm going to go shoot it somewhere and get better and come back next year and do better," she said.

After expenses, the union was able to donate over \$8,600 to six local chapters of the Boys and Girls Clubs, from Napa Valley to Sacramento to Silicon Valley. The event was part of Business Manager Tom Dalzell's on-going effort to get Local 1245 involved in activities that benefit the communities where our members work.

Raising money for a good cause was important to Denise Miller, a Senior Customer Service Rep at Modesto Irrigation District. "That makes me feel really good. That's the reason we're out here, for the charities," she said.

"But it's also a lot of fun!" she added.



PG&E GC shooters, from left: Luis Aguayo, Chris Baldrige, Raul Martinez and Cory Ashby.



Mike Shipley wins a gun in the raffle.



Greg Gasaway wins a gun safe in the raffle.



Donna Miller of Cypress Mandela gets off a shot.



A barbecue lunch in the shade after a hot morning in the sun.



Denise Miller, Modesto Irrigation District, cracks up a clay.



Aser Tolentino, Sacramento Regional Transit

Helping with logistics were Local 1245 office staff members Nancy Kendrick, left, and Caitlin Ramirez, and (below) Local 1245 Business Rep. Elizabeth McInnis.



## Giving back to the community

After paying the bills for the event, Local 1245 was able to contribute \$1441.39 to each of the following six groups:

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley
- Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Napa Valley
- Vacaville Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club
- West Contra Costa Salesian Boys & Girls Club, Inc.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento  
 Executive Director  
 Chair  
 Vice Chair  
 Treasurer  
 Secretary  
 Past Chair

### Members

- Eric Andersen
- Gordon Beatie
- Jasper Begay
- John DiGiusto
- Jane Einhorn
- Kristina Launey
- Anthony Musante
- Rob Miller
- Robert Perry
- Deborah Rubens
- Dan Schaub
- Dan Schiele
- Kevin Sheehan
- Joel Van Parys

CEO  
 Maureen Price

### Mission

To inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens

Leave A Lasting Legacy  
 Please remember us in your will or estate planning.

Administrative Offices  
 Teichert Branch  
 5212 Lemon Hill Ave.

7/25/2012

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
 Local Union 1245  
 Attn: Ronald Cochran  
 30 Orange Tree Circle  
 Vacaville, CA 95696

*Wow. This is very generous. We appreciate it!*

Dear Mr. Cochran;

I want to thank you and acknowledge your recent gift of \$1,441.39 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento.

Each year over 2,000 club members from all parts of the region and from all walks of life depend on the Boys & Girls Club to be a safe haven in their out-of-school hours. Many of our young people come from challenging home lives and challenging situations and find, at the club, support, guidance and opportunities that will help them realize and reach their dreams.

Your contribution, along with those of hundreds of others, provide a lifeline for kids who need us most. We simply could not be there for our young people without this type of generosity and investment in our children's future. We honor you for your charity, and we thank you deeply for helping us continue to meet the needs of children. You have made a very special difference today in giving the gift of the future to countless children whose lives have been placed in our care.

Sincerely,

Maureen Price, CEO

P.S. Please visit us at our website [www.bgcsac.org](http://www.bgcsac.org) to stay in touch and to see how this contribution is being put to work!

P.O. Box 2547  
 Vacaville, CA 95696

Dear Ronald:

On behalf of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento, we are pleased to contribute \$1,441.39 for our work "to inspire and realize the potential as responsible citizens."

Since its inception, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento has been a thoughtful contributor to the downtown San Joaquin Hills area.

We are honored that you have renovated your website and that you are doing what is new and exciting.

Again, thank you for your contribution.

Sincerely,

Thank you for your contribution to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento Clubhouses local residential summer camps.

As a BGCSF donor, you are helping to provide a safe haven for our city's youth and help them realize their full potential without your support.

✓ When you donate, you are providing skills, knowledge, and financial support to our companies, including Architecture & Design.

✓ We provide the core subject matter for 96% of high school and college or senior citizens.

We are committed to providing youth that need it most with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

To learn more, please visit our website at [www.kidsclub.org](http://www.kidsclub.org).

Thank you for your contribution.

Sincerely,



IBEW members from Sacramento Regional Transit at the Clays Shoot.



Local 1245 Senior Assistant Business Manager Ron Cochran and IBEW Local 180 Business Manager Dan Broadwater.



The Kenyons were well represented.



Heidi Swensen and her new shotgun

Photos by Eric Wolfe

## Sponsors

IBEW Local 1245 thanks the following organizations for co-sponsoring the Clay Shoot:

- IBEW Local 180
- IBEW Local 340
- IBEW Local 595
- IBEW Local 332
- IBEW Local 6
- Napa/Solano LMCC
- Electrical Industry Advancement Program Local 302
- NECA-IBEW LMCC Local 340
- VDV LMCC NECA
- Blue Shield
- Wellington Energy
- BenSys
- Mid Valley Building Trades
- Marysville Central Labor Council
- Henkels & McCoy

See more photos online at: [www.ibew1245.com/news-Local1245/Sporting\\_Clay\\_Raffle\\_Winners\\_6-19-12.html](http://www.ibew1245.com/news-Local1245/Sporting_Clay_Raffle_Winners_6-19-12.html) and [www.ibew1245.com/news-Local1245/clayshoot-photopage\\_6-25-12.html](http://www.ibew1245.com/news-Local1245/clayshoot-photopage_6-25-12.html)

# Retirees' Corner



## Proposition 32: Not what it pretends to be

By Bill Wallace

Proposition 32, the so-called, "Stop Special Interest Money Now Act," was written to look like a fair and even-handed solution to take special interest money out of politics, but it is not what it pretends to be.

This initiative is just another attempt by billionaire businessmen and corporate special interests to rewrite the rules in their favor, giving them special exemptions to spend unlimited amounts of secret money to influence elections.

This initiative was craftily written to look like a fair and even-handed solution to the problems in Sacramento. But in truth, it is not a balanced approach because it only restricts unions. Corporations and commercial interest groups spend far more money on political issues than what unions spend, but they are not restricted. Proposition 32 is a good example of the wealthy using their profits to sell a lie to the voters of California.



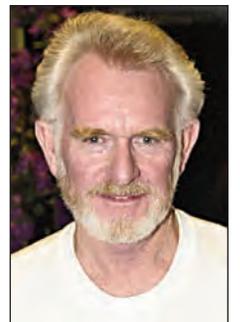
They are counting on the voters' general distrust of politics to get this initiative passed and consequently provide the wealthy with even more power.

Wealthy special interests are investing some of the billions they make in profits to fund this initiative to break the power of the only organizations that stand in their way of an unchallenged monopoly. Corporations are using their financial power to usurp the election process.

Proposition 32 exempts secretive Super PACs, allowing them to raise unlimited amounts of money from corporate special interests and billionaire businessmen. It does nothing to prevent anonymous donors from spending unlimited amounts to influence elections.

If Proposition 32 passes it will cut off the ability of organized labor to participate significantly in the electoral arena. Unions will not even be able to spend money to communicate with their own

members on electoral issues and candidates. Then, in the next election cycle the super rich can move onto their real agenda: passing a Right to Work Law and undo all of the gains that



Bill Wallace

California labor has made in the last century. The next target after that will be Social Security.

If we allow Proposition 32 to pass, backroom brokering by the wealthy will become the law of the land in California. The result will be Super PACs, billionaire businessmen and corporate special interests running our state. **Don't allow this to happen—vote NO on**

*Proposition 32 is a good example of the wealthy using their profits to sell a lie to the voters of California.*

### Proposition 32.

Bill Wallace is a retired member of IBEW 1245 and the local's representative to the Alliance for Retired Americans.

## Retiree Club Meeting Schedule

You can find the specific dates for each month at [www.ibew1245.com/unit\\_meetings.html](http://www.ibew1245.com/unit_meetings.html)

**East Bay Chapter:** 2nd Thursday each month, 10 a.m., IBEW Local 595, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA.

**San Jose Chapter:** 1st Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at IBEW Local 332, 2125 Canoas Garden, San Jose, CA.

**Vacaville/Sacramento Chapter:** 2nd Wednesday every other month, 10 a.m., at IBEW Local 1245, 30 Orange Tree Circle, Vacaville, CA.

**Santa Rosa Chapter:** 1st Tuesday each month, 10 a.m., at Coco's Restaurant, 1501 Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa, CA.

**Merced Chapter:** 1st Tuesday each month, 10 a.m., Merced Senior Community, 755 W. 15th Street., Merced, CA.

**Reno/Sparks Chapter:** 3rd Wednesday each month, 8:30 a.m., Denny's Restaurant, 205 E. Nugget Ave., Sparks, NV.

**Yerrington Chapter:** 4th Tuesday each month, 11:00 a.m. lunch, 11:30 a.m. meeting, Dini's Lucky Club, 45 N. Main St., Yerrington, NV.

**Carson City Chapter:** 4th Thursday each month, 9:00 a.m., Grandma Hattie's Restaurant, 2811 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV.

**Winnemucca Chapter:** 4th Wednesday each month, 11 a.m., Round Table Pizza, 1043 W. Fourth St., Winnemucca.

## Congratulations newly-retired members

The Local 1245 Retirees Club congratulates these recently-retired members of the union. We invite you to participate in a Retiree Club chapter in Dublin, San Jose, Vacaville, Santa Rosa, Merced, Reno, Yerrington, Carson City and Winnemucca. If you don't have a chapter nearby, call the union at 707-452-2718 and find out how you can help start one!

Dennis Ardizzone 45 years Santa Clara, CA	Alfred Cadinha 16 years Pollock Pines, CA	Kathleen Figueroa 34 years Clayton, CA	Larry Jameson 44 years Fresno, CA	George Murillo 34 years Chico, CA	Robert Schroeder 39 years Battleground, WA
Sheu Au 31 years San Francisco, CA	Jon Corbin 25 years Turlock, CA	Glenn Finkeneller 23 years Oroville, CA	Jack Joyce 18 years Elk Grove, CA	Joseph Osterlund 33 years Brentwood, CA	Nadine Scigliano 35 years Foster City, CA
Marc Barbee 7 years Florence, OR	Ernest Crawford 5 years San Francisco, CA	Charlie Franco 15 years Marysville, CA	Thaddeus James Kellam 6 years Oakland, CA	Gregory Peterburs 18 years Wheatland, CA	Mark Shoulet 28 years Fresno, CA
Charles Barber 41 years Sunnyvale, CA	Peter Drinkward 32 years San Leandro, CA	Patrick Gallegos 34 years Del Rey Oaks, CA	Patrick Lacy 38 years Rodeo, CA	Craig Pierce 33 years Petaluma, CA	Wendy Sibray 27 years Santa Cruz, CA
Shirley Battles 33 years Roseville, CA	Dale Ecker 38 years Greenville, CA	Hector Gonzalez 27 years Pittsburg, CA	David Lehman 40 years Clovis, CA	Dale Quedens 27 years Paradise, CA	Bert Slusher 28 years Fairfield, CA
Morris Baumgartner 31 years Rough & Ready, CA	Carole Edmark 25 years Antioch, CA	Daryl Haakonson 41 years Red Bluff, CA	Benjamin Lewis 32 years Eureka, CA	William Raffety 46 years Hayfork, CA	Charles Stuber 10 years San Mateo, CA
Richard Bustamante 30 years Casa Grande, AZ	Ray Espinosa 27 years Santa Rosa, CA	Darrell Hardcastle 2 years Bakersfield, CA	John Lopes 35 years Oakland, CA	Sandra Rankins 24 years Oakland, CA	Mark Thomas 40 years Greenfield, CA
Michael Bustillos 37 years Pacifica, CA	David Evers 29 years Atascadero, CA	Thomas Harrer 38 years Bakersfield, CA	Luciano Manansala 26 years Vallejo, CA	Norma Ricker 38 years Lincoln, CA	Nona Thompson 39 years Richmond, CA
		Cynthia Haver 32 years Citrus Heights, CA	Janice Mar 10 years Olivehurst, CA	Manuel Rivas 27 years Oakland, CA	Jimmie Truesdell 46 years
		Rudolfo Herras 40 years Alameda, CA	Ventura Martinez 41 years Lathrop, CA	Richard Roberto 41 years Petaluma, CA	Nancy Walters 21 years Needles, CA
		Janey Holden 31 years Fresno, CA	Merle McGregor 31 years Rohnert Park, CA	Agnes Robinson Tate 18 years Oakland, CA	Henry Ybarra 32 years Winlock, WA
		Donald Howard 17 years Lakeport, CA	Chang McKoon 40 years Santa Rosa, CA	Dewey Rogge 34 years San Jose, CA	Thomas Yee 37 years Sacramento, CA
		Rachel Huerta 18 years Clovis, CA	Beverly Mendel 2 years San Jose, CA	Dave Romero 40 years Bakersfield, CA	Jose Yeverino 33 years Clovis, CA
		Brian Husbands 27 years Kingman, AZ	Jeffrey Miller 32 years Redmond, OR	Donald Royce 28 years Woodland, CA	Elizabeth Zumwalt 33 years Orland, CA
				Joe Ruiz 40 years San Jose, CA	
				Greg Schmall 32 years Clovis, CA	

**Reno/Sparks IBEW 1245 retirees blog** <http://renosparksibew1245retireesclub.blogspot.com/>

**IBEW Ninth District Blog** <http://ibewninthdistrictretirees.blogspot.com/>

**Congratulations Retirees!**

**We want you to STAY CONNECTED**

**to IBEW 1245.**

## Bernard Smallwood heads home after long career as activist

# Fighting the Good Fight

**B**ack in the 1960s, students at Langston University in Oklahoma spent a lot of their spare time shooting pool. Bernard Smallwood wasn't one of them. He was the lone guy over in the corner watching Walter Cronkite on CBS News talking about the protest movement in Berkeley, California.

"I was fascinated with that stuff," recalled Smallwood, now a 66-year-old Business Representative for IBEW Local 1245, who retires in September. "I was always pro-worker, pro-union, taking a stand on behalf of working people. I've just always been that way."

Smallwood left Oklahoma for Berkeley in 1968. Factory work led him into the Machinists union, where he held numerous union positions, including chief shop steward.

"When I came to PG&E (in 1984) it was just natural for me to get involved in the union," he said.

In the 1990s he successfully ran for Advisory Council, representing members in San Francisco Division. In 1999, Local 1245 hired him as a business representative.

His first assignment was representing members in the East Bay, filling in behind a rep who was on medical leave. He quickly learned what every business rep finds out: your phone rings all the time.

"My view is that people don't necessarily care what you know—until they at least know that you care. I may not be the most knowledgeable person or best business rep, but the one thing people do know is that I care."

When people know you care, he said, they give you the benefit of the doubt. Once they have seen that you follow through on your commitments, "they will trust that you will get back to them."

Business Manager Tom Dalzell said that Smallwood's devotion to the job reminded him of the scene in "Field of Dreams," where Shoeless Joe Jackson says that he would have played baseball for free, that's how much he loved the game.

"So it is with Bernard. He has loved the work. He believes in the work. He believes in the members, and nothing gave him more pride than the chance to serve his fellow members. I'm sure he will take his passion for social justice into retirement, but he gave it his all while with us," Dalzell said.

The most memorable moment in Smallwood's union career came in late 1994. PG&E was planning to lay off a thousand workers. The union responded by holding a rally at the California Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco, where protest signs asked, "Who are you going to call when



Bernard with his bullhorn (above left and on steps in photo below) leads a chant at the CPUC rally in 1994. Photo by David Bacon

the lights go out?"

"It was pouring down rain," Smallwood recalls. "After the rally we marched from the CPUC to PG&E headquarters," where then-CEO Stan Skinner came out and met with the marchers.

"That was my defining moment. It showed the unity of our members—there were people who came from as far away as Bakersfield—a thousand people standing in the rain," he said. "It showed what the union was all about—togetherness, divided we fall, united we stand."

After several more months of union protests, PG&E rescinded the layoffs and began meeting with the union to discuss manpower requirements.

It's exhilarating to win, but no victory is permanent. The biggest challenge facing union members today, Smallwood pointed out, is Proposition 32, which would gag workers and give corporations near total control over the political process in California.

"It's really important we do everything in our power to defeat that, and the only way to do that is to educate and mobilize our members," said Smallwood.

But this is one fight we'll have to finish without Brother Smallwood's help. At the end of September, he will pack up and head back to Oklahoma after 44 years of fighting the good fight in California.

Our best wishes go with him.



Bernard at the entrance to the union he served for nearly 30 years.

Photo by Eric Wolfe

"Before I became a rep I tried to get hold of my rep and I thought, 'These guys never answer the phone.' When I became a rep I got a lot clearer idea of what reps had to deal with—that you didn't always have the answer right away," and that research was sometimes required to find the answer.

Later he represented San Francisco and the peninsula, then the Sacramento-Vacaville area, then back to San Francisco, and finally Mission Division in the East Bay.

For Smallwood, the first job of a union business representative is to connect to the people you are supposed to represent.





# 16th Annual **IBEW 9th District** **Softball** **Tournament**

## Local 1245 at Big League Dreams Park

**O**K, there is no way around this. It was HOT.

In fact, it may have been the hottest day of the year when players took the field for the 16th Annual IBEW Ninth District Softball Tournament on Aug. 11. The two-day event, held this year at Manteca's Big League Dreams Park, drew IBEW Local 1245 teams from PG&E General Construction, Modesto Irrigation District, Turlock Irrigation District, and a combined team from PG&E and Wellington Energy, which advanced to the finals on the second day.

Fifty-three members of Local 1245 registered for the tournament, a sizeable increase over last year, according to Business Rep. Elizabeth McInnis, who helped organize our union's participation in the tournament.

"The members put their own teams together. This gave everyone an opportunity to bring their families, so there was a lot of children out there, and wives and girlfriends."

Besides the tournament itself, union members found time on the side to play Cornhole, a horse-shoe type game played with bean bags. And on Saturday night, everyone came together for drinks and dinner at a banquet set up at Big League Dreams Park.

"This is a great way of bringing union members together from the various locals to talk and exchange ideas," noted

Local 1245 Senior Assistant Business Manager Ron Cochran.

IBEW Local 441 of Orange County won the tournament. Along with the victory comes

the right to host the tournament next year.

McInnis said Local 1245 looked forward to fielding teams for that event as well.

"Each year we can only get better. This being only our second year we did pretty good," she said.



Local 1245's Wellington Energy/PG&E team.



Local 1245's team from Modesto Irrigation District.



Local 1245's team from Turlock Irrigation District.

See more photos at [www.ibew1245.com/news-Local1245/softball\\_8-14-12](http://www.ibew1245.com/news-Local1245/softball_8-14-12)

### The Local 1245 Teams

#### Modesto Irrigation District

Mike Gomes  
Brant Kaiser  
Bob Mize  
Paul Bledsoe  
Troy Weese  
Matt McCurdy  
Sean Coulson  
David Quaresma  
Scott Duety  
Tim Hampton  
Doug Cameron  
Randy Lofing  
Brian Szuggar  
Roby Higgins

#### PG&E General Construction

Jared Curnow  
Mike Shafe  
Matt Bell  
Albert Escalante  
Bill Evans  
Dave Granillo  
Dustin Powell  
Francisco Hernandez  
James Crowhurst  
Jeremy Mitchell  
Justin Dunn  
Mark De Velbiss  
Phil Shepherd  
Sean Giangregorio

#### Turlock Irrigation District

Mike Patterson  
Dennis Mattos  
Anthony Ormonde  
Steve Johnson  
Brain Lovio  
Aaron Baker  
Cody Sanders  
Mike Van Engmond  
Casey Guinn  
Ben Plaa  
Dustin Krieger  
James Smalls  
Josh Klikna

#### Wellington Energy/PG&E

Johnny Ruiz  
Jesse Washington  
Julio Loera  
Troy Dennis  
Andrew Magario  
Greg Buschmann  
Frank Hernandez  
Michael Boyle  
Nick Hinzo  
Dave Stewart  
Jason Tweedy  
Travis Hale

# New Local 1245 training program assists First Responders

By Rich Lane

The IBEW Local 1245 First Responder program is up and running.

This new initiative by Local 1245 seeks to train first responders, including police and firefighters, on how to deal with electrical emergencies until experienced utility personnel arrive on the scene.

Our First Responder program is an entirely different animal in comparison to our traditional safety initiatives. The First Responder program seeks to train people who work outside of our usual sphere of operations in the utility sector. And there's a good reason for this. Firefighters and law enforcement personnel are often the first on the scene in car-versus-pole accidents, storm damage, structure fires and blowing gas. Utility emergency response workers are responsible to make the scene safe and take the first steps in making repairs, but what should police and firefighters do while waiting for utility personnel to arrive?

In a perfect world, all responders coordinate well together and services are restored in a timely manner. Well, we



Rich Lane

all know we don't live in a perfect world. But the Local 1245 First Responder program aims to improve coordination by helping first responders understand what they should—and shouldn't—do when confronted with an electrical or gas emergency.

There is a varying degree of knowledge in the first responder community about how the utility system works, what the inherent dangers are, and how to prevent a failure in the system from getting even worse. Talk to any electric troubleshooter or gas service representative and he or she will have their share of scary first responder stories. I can share one incident that happened to me personally.

As a troubleshooter, I came across a sheriff's deputy who had wrapped his car around a primary pole. There were wires down over his car. Four firefighters were busily at work trying to extricate the deputy—with a burning 7200 volt

IBEW Local 1245's First Responder program is aimed initially at firefighters and law enforcement, but we stand ready to expand this program. Many community groups could benefit from learning about potential hazards in their homes and communities, and about safety awareness in general. Spread the word! We're here to help.

IBEW Local 1245 is looking for fire and law enforcement agencies who are interested in our union's safety training for first responders. Training sessions can be tailored to the needs of specific groups, and can run anywhere from two to six hours. If you have contacts with specific agencies that could benefit from this training please let me know by email at [rvl5@ibew1245.com](mailto:rvl5@ibew1245.com) or call me at 209-202-9492. We have brochures available to help introduce agencies to the services we offer. — Rich Lane



primary wire in the bushes nearby. I called the power control center to drop the feeder and luckily they were able to comply in a timely manner. After the whole event was over I shook with fear at the thought of those four firefighters possibly getting electrocuted while performing their job. Were these men stupid, or possibly unconcerned about the potential danger? No, their only fault was that they were untrained and unaware of the risk.

Business Manager Tom Dalzell and the union's Executive Board recognize that IBEW Local 1245 members are an essential part of a much larger first responder community. Being part of that community carries an important responsibility. We can share essential knowledge that will not only improve the safety of other first responders, but the safety of Local 1245 members as well. After all, when police and firefighters make the right decisions before IBEW members arrive on the scene, it reduces the risks for all.

One may ask why utility companies don't offer this training. Well, some do, but most don't. Budget constraints and manpower limitations are always an issue. Offering safety training, especially to outside agencies, is a hard sell.

Still a harder sell in today's political climate is the view that unions have something to contribute to the community as a whole. Unions are frequently criticized for their lack of relevance in today's world. But here's something for the public at large to consider: unions like IBEW Local 1245 have something important to offer—not only to our members but to society as a whole. Our First Responder program is a visible indication of Local 1245's relevance, and our willingness to find new ways to give back to the communities that our members live in and serve.

## Curtis Zahourek, 47

Outside Line Construction member Curtis Zahourek, 47, was fatally injured on July 27 in a job-related accident working for 3 Phase Line Construction.

Curtis, a 24-year IBEW Local 1245 member, was in the process of relocating vibration dampers on a fiber-optic line in the area of Bridgeville, CA. While attached to the fiber-optic line that was double dead-ended to two separate legs on the lattice steel transmission tower approximately 70 feet in the air, the steel link that was used to dead-end the fiber to the tower leg broke. When the first link broke it apparently shock loaded the other steel link on the other leg of the tower, resulting in the fiber optic line falling to the ground with Curtis attached.

CalOSHA is investigating the accident.

IBEW Local 1245 extends our condolences to the friends, family and co-workers of Brother Curtis Zahourek.

## Peer to Peer Safety Initiative

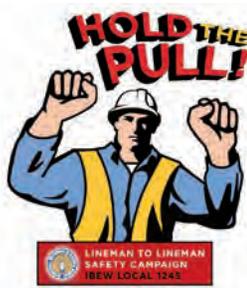
### Hold the Pull

The Hold the Pull peer-to-peer group continues to meet with pre-apprentices at the PG&E Training Center in Livermore.

At these meetings, many apprentices have expressed their view that apprentices have little voice on safety matters. They believe they are vulnerable to others in superior positions if they speak up.

Hold the Pull and the other peer-to-peer safety groups stress that *everyone* has ownership of safety and is responsible to themselves and others to have a safe workplace.

The purpose of the Hold the Pull sessions with the pre-apprentices is to try to dispel misconceptions and speak frankly about line crew dynamics. In most sessions apprentices are very vocal once they know they are among brothers who have their best interests at heart.



### Control the Pressure

The Control the Pressure peer-to-peer group met Sept. 6 to plan activities for the fall and 2013. The group will meet every other month on the second Wednesday.

The group is discussing traveling to the two gas training centers at PG&E and meeting with apprentices about gas safety and the peer-to-peer program. Members of the group split up the safety stewards list among themselves and will make contact with their respective stewards on an ongoing basis to monitor safety issues on the job.

This group also has been very active on the recently started Local 1245 safety steward secure website. Safety stewards



and peer-to-peer committee members converse in a "chat room" style forum that is dedicated exclusively to their safety issues and topics.

All three peer safety initiatives have access to this site.

### Keep the Clearance

The Keep the Clearance peer-to-peer group for Tree Trimmers is planning a safety steward training to take place on Sept. 27 at Weakley Hall in Vacaville.



The Keep the Clearance group has picked up 36 safety stewards, largely through visits to unit meetings in June and July.

The training will cover the peer-to-peer concept, roles and responsibilities, and member support skills. The training will be conducted by the peer-to-peer group itself and will be conducted in English and Spanish.

There will also be training on how to use the new peer-to-peer secure website.

### More safety news

Read the most recent safety reports at [www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com). Scroll down to find the Safety Matters section.

# THE TOKEN BEARERS

By Mike Cottrell

*The next installment in the lineman's novel by Local 1245 Executive Board member Mike Cottrell.*

## Chapter 6

TWO IN THE MONEY IN EUREKA. ONE DOWN IN BOISE. A HAIR LIP IN RENO AND A SAC TOWN CONTRACTOR. STILL 1954.

They took turns driving to work every day and the girls had a car to run around in and take the kids places. It was summer and the kids did not have to worry about school. The men worked six days a week, twelve hours a day and sometimes Sundays. It made for a good time job and everybody was getting dough heavy. Kenny and Buddy became as good of friends as linemen can get and the couples took in movies and went to the dances on Saturday night.

The terrain on the right of way was tough, winding through the canyons and going over the rough mountains along the northern California coast. The high line was a wood pole H structure. The wire was 4/0 copper. The trucks were old army surplus power wagons with A frames and winches for setting. Mules were used in places where the trucks couldn't go to skid the material and rigging to the locations. Lots of ground men were on the job to hand dig the holes and dynamite was used for gaining depth to have nice holes for the poles to be placed in.

The grunts went through and spotted the poles and material with whatever means the terrain dictated and worked at the same sites digging the two permanent holes and one hole not as deep in the places that required a temporary gin pole to raise the 'H' structures.

These were the framers accompanied by linemen. This was daily routine and painstaking work. They cursed the rocks and moved the mules and trucks along the right of way and kept vigilant to their duty as to stay ahead of the setting crew. These men of the assembly and framing crew gnawed and backbit each other all day and forged ahead with verbal attacks launched relentlessly at steep hills, flat tires, stubborn animals and each other without cease. They rallied at the bar at night to further agitate and deprive themselves of needed rest and sobriety as not to miss the opportunity to brawl and drink themselves to sleep. Rebounding by morning light to eat greasy breakfasts and do it over and over, day in and day out. Charmed by it and proud to be in the grasp of the craft that held them jailed to the slavery of their love.

The setting crew or erection crew would then come through the right of way and see that all had been done properly ahead of them with their equipment and man and mule power.

Buddy and Kenny were part of the erection crew and did most of the climbing.

"Fancy told me once about a mule they had on a job," and Buddy drew the pack of Pall Malls from his shirt pocket and when Kenny had his Lucky in hand Buddy popped open the Zippo and built the fire so they could rest and smoke, "that every time he came to a tree he would stop and wait for the tree to move."

"Oh yeah," said Kenny and giggled a little and his eyes sparkled under the auburn hair and he tipped his felt hat back with his big thumb protruding clumsily off his huge hand and waited for the rest of it to come out of the head scratchers mouth.

"Yeeah. Hell, Fancy said they'd have a pole behind him and be skinning down the right a' way and he'd just pull up to a tree and stop and his nose would be about a foot away from it and he'd just stand there."

This time Kenny just giggled.

"Yeeah," Fancy said the foreman—I don't remember his name—but they were doing a steel job up in Wisconsin in '23, I think it was, anyway, the foreman kept tellin' Fancy if they didn't break that mule of stoppin' at every tree he came to he was gonna shoot the son of a bitch. Fancy said, hell boss he's just an ignorant animal trying to do the best he can. So the boss thought for a minute and said, well he ain't no more ignorant than the rest of us and you better break him of it."

By this time the rest of the crew had gathered around and lit up or took a chew and were eagerly waiting the rest of the spill from Buddy. Some giggling a little and others catching their breath and wiping their sweating brows.

"Well sir, Fancy said, I've give it a good deal a' thought and I actually think a mule is smarter than a lineman."

They all laughed a little then.

"That ole foreman looked at Fancy and said, Why? And Fancy said, Because a mule you got to harness before he'll work and we linemen are dumb enough we'll harness ourselves."

Up in Boise about the same time this break was being taken on a good side hill on the north coast of California, John was on the porch looking out across the Boise River at Horseshoe Bend summit. He lacked any will to do anything and the depression was starting to set in again. He leaned against the porch pole by the two steps that would take him back out into the working world. He stood back up straight and pondered the situation. He'd been thinking about doing it for a couple days and he thought he was ready. He figured if he could keep Ruth from raising too much hell and calling the doctor he could get rid of it and get on with life. The kids needed things and the bills were all past due. He'd gone yesterday to the place in Boise where he had recently bought the new navy blue Desoto and the sales manager was in shock when he walked into his office and threw the key on the desk.

"What happened to you, John?"

"I fell off a pole and broke it and won't be able to pay for the fine auto you sold me. It's a hell of a car and it sure beats walkin', but at least walkin' ain't crowded and it's still free."

The old man who owned the lot shocked John.

"You keep the car and when your back to work you catch them payments up when you can."

"I'm gonna' have to travel to Reno or Northern California to get work. You won't send the law after me, will ya' neighbor?"

"I said, when you're back in shape, you can bring up the payments son."

So that's one good old man, he thought, and bit a lucky and went back in the house.

He sat down in the chair by the phone and opened the book with his left hand and started going through it to see about work. The other arm was suspended in the air on a brace in a full cast and the base of the brace was attached to his rib cage to prevent unneeded movement of the broken collarbone. The little girl and boy played in the sand pit in the backyard and John giggled when the older girl poured a bucket of sand on her little brother. Ruth was in the bathroom and came running out to answer the door.

"Oh, hi, well just a minute. She walked back over to John who was dialing a number.

"It's the landlord at the door John," she whispered, "and he looks mad."

The landlord had not known about the accident and was mad about the rent being behind. John gathered himself and walked up to the screen door. The landlord could only vaguely see John through the mesh and John's broken arm perched on the brace was offset out of the frame of the door and out of view anyway.

"We need to have a talk!"

John did not reply before his landlord's next comment.

"You're behind on the rent!"

"Yes sir I know but—"

"NO buts about it. If you don't come up with some rent money, I'll drag you out here on the porch and take it out of your hide."

John didn't say anything and awkwardly opened the door with his left hand and started through.



The landlord backed up and put up his fists and set his body into what John thought was a rather good-looking fighting position.

When he saw him come out where he could get a good look at him, the landlord was stunned to see the condition John was in and although his facial expression changed by a sagging bottom lip he remained in his combative posture and took a step back to give John room on the porch.

John stood there proud. In his boxer shorts and undershirt, barefoot, erect, and undaunted by his opposition, he proudly stuck his chin out and proclaimed, "Well have at it partner. I wish I could pay all my bills this way. Take all you can get out my hide and I'll pay the rest of it as soon as I can."

The landlord and John had a pretty good laugh and John promised payment and signed a note that a few months later he stood good for and to assure payment the landlord helped cut the cast off so John could get started packing to move on and find work. The old landlord stayed and helped him pack the car and listen to Ruth nagging and scolding him all the while about how much of a big dumb jack lope he was for turning against the doctor and taking her and the children away from Boise.

When they got to Reno, he went to Local 401 to plead his case to the business manager, who was a hair lip and an old friend of his. Ruth and the kids were in the car in the parking lot of the Coney Island Bar on West Fourth Street. John entered the building and the business manager noticed him immediately and ran over and slapped him on the right shoulder and John screamed in pain and took a swing at him but missed and then got his composure back and started begging a job.

"How many on the books, old man, I need a job."

"Ders' terrti one, four ob um' is nert and four ob um is flat nazy."

"Good that only leaves twenty-three. When do I start?"

"Na way knees' books nar' movin', prodly nabout tree weets."

"Three weeks! They were both giggling now. "I can't wait three weeks. Hell, when we left Boise the kids were sittin' in the middle of the floor cryin' for the door knob thinkin' it was a biscuit."

"Neah, neah, I'm sure Rut nain't gon net um tarve'."

"Hell she didn't care what they were doin' she was busy eatin' the putty outta the window frames tryin' to keep her energy up!"

Now they were both giggling good and turning red in the face.

"Look at her out there, Sonny, leaning against the car smokin' our last cigarette and worried to death about our next meal. That's the woman I promised when we wed that if she would stick with me, I'd have her fartin' thru' silk and right now she's had on the same cotton panties for two days."

They stopped laughing soon enough. John looked at him seriously.

"I fell off a pole up in Idaho there and I been broke up awhile Sonny. Send me off on a merry chase somewhere man. I need a job to keep me from turnin' to continual crime as a last resort."

Sonny pulled the two dollars out of his wallet and rubbed his lip with the back of his hand.

"Dat noddamn nisenhower. Take dem nids and Rut' ober nar' to na noney niland and get um' soomtin' neat. I'll nake a phone nall!"

He gave the phone a strong look and dialed the number. When the secretary answered, she had trouble understanding his voice due to the speech impediment. But she had talked with him before and put him on hold.

"Jesse, it's that union guy from Reno, the hair lip wanting to talk with you."

Jesse quickly answered.

"Hello Sonny, how's your hammer hangin'?"

"Oh, pre good. I dot a ninemen ober near culd nelp yo wit' some dat nurk you tryin' get done ober dar' in nortur' talifornia nan his been broke nup fer while, but nake a nam good norman fer ya til' he get good nough ta' nurk again."

Jesse liked Sonny and respected his input on how to run the business he had started in Reno a few years back, but now most of the work he was acquiring was coming from government contracts in northern California. He was in the process of closing the Reno office and moving everything over the Sierra's to concentrate on the lucrative expansion of the cold war. The government was throwing millions into national defense and Jesse had ambitions to be on the ground floor in this part of the country. God bless his heart, thought Jesse. I wish I could understand him better. He had to ask because he just couldn't get the full gist of his remarks. So he meekly made the request.

"Sonny can you round your words off a little more. I'm truly sorry but I can't understand everything your saying."

"Asshole, asshole, is dat' roun' nough far neah!"

It was Sonny's standard reply to those who weren't trying hard enough.

Then he would chuckle and slow down to get the dialog in better shape and proceed, all the while wishing he had never been born a hair lip and realizing communicating with linemen was no easy task under any condition, physical or mental.

After careful ponderous ear strain to the receiver the meaning of the call was finally understood.

Jesse had been overburdened lately and had been considering a good man to come in and take his field operation on as he could see he was reaching a point of exhaustion more than not in recent months and the strain on his own worth was starting to show. But he was a businessman now and wanted to do the most he could sometimes without adding overhead to an extravagant degree. In other word, he was a stingy. Even the snot rags he had taken out of the company box to blow his nose on in Oceanside came to mind occasionally as he would ponder the last days he worked for wages and caught the pole with the head scratcher.

Reason finally won out and with the insurance of Sonny that this would be a good move for his infant company he agreed to hire John to come over and ramrod the field operations, freeing him to concentrate on bidding work, attending meetings and finding the resource to keep the business afloat through good and bad times.

"Tides nesse, nif ya' non't nike Thon' new can always fire nis nass and send him nackin!"

"That's right Sonny.. And the deal was struck.

John would be called out by name as Foreman from the local in Sacramento, be given a truck to drive and the wages as set forth in the local agreement. He would be responsible for the performance of the jobs that Jesse would assign him and be in charge of the Linemen who would try his authority. His hands would be full and he was just the man for the job.

*continued in next issue*

## Notice regarding agency fee payers objection plan

Any employee who is not a member of the IBEW and who pays agency fees to IBEW Local 1245 pursuant to a union security provision in Local 1245's collective bargaining agreement has the right to object to expenditures of fees for activities which are not reasonably related to collective bargaining or undertaken to advance the employment-related interests of employees represented by the Local. The agency fees paid by a fee payer who perfects an objection will be reduced by an amount reflecting the portion of the overall expenditures of the Local Union that are used for non-chargeable activities. Objections must be made annually and will be effective for a single calendar year. Each fee payer who wishes to file an objection with Local 1245 must do so in writing, addressed to the Business Manager, Local 1245, Post Office Box 2547, Vacaville, California 95696, by certified mail. In registering their objections, objectors must state their name and address and that they pay fees to this Local, and provide their nonmember identification number, if known, and their social security number. Objections must be postmarked during the month of November preceding the calendar year for which the objection will be in effect, or during the first thirty days after the objector commences paying fees to the Local Union as required by a collective bargaining agreement. Objections must be renewed annually, during the month of November.

CLEVELAND, OHIO – APRIL 14, 2012

## Showing How It's Done

MID and SMUD excel at the Public Power Rodeo



SMUD Journeymen Chris Fukui, left, and Michael Moore.

A good ground game is a critical part of a safe job



**I**BEW Local 1245 linemen and apprentices showed how it's done at the 12th Annual Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo in Cleveland, OH.

The Modesto Irrigation District team of Brian Szuggar, Sean Coulson, Victor Madrigal, and Doug Cameron took third place in the overall competition among journeymen, including first place finishes in the Transformer Change Out and second place in the Cross Arm Change Out.

SMUD dominated the apprentice competition. Joseph Cowley took first place overall among 60 apprentices. SMUD Apprentice Justin Hirschi took first in Hurtman Rescue, first in Streetlight Change Out, and third in the 3-Phase Fuse Replacement. SMUD Apprentice Louis Jimenez finished second in Hurtman Rescue, third in the Obstacle Course, fourth in the 3-Phase Fuse Replacement, and fifth in Streetlight Change Out.

In a field of 45 journeyman teams, SMUD's three teams took second as well as fifth place in Transformer Change Out, third in 12kv Arrestor Change Out, and an amazing first, second and seventh in Hurtman Rescue.

Scoring of rodeo events is heavily weighted toward safe and workmanlike performance. We congratulate the MID and SMUD participants for showing the world how it's done.



Placing third in the overall journeyman competition was the MID team of, from left: Brian Szuggar, Sean Coulson, Victor Madrigal and Doug Cameron.



The SMUD Rodeo Team, standing, from left: Branden Carter, Journeyman; Chris Fukui, Journeyman; Joe Cowley, Apprentice; J.C.Moe, Journeyman; Lucas Raley, Light Foreman; Keno Grigsby, Journeyman; Matt Wilson, Journeyman; Michael Moore, Journeyman. Kneeling, from left: Louis Jimenez, Apprentice; Justin Hirschi, Apprentice; Todd Prangley, Light Foreman.



SMUD apprentices took first, second and fifth in a field of 60 in the Hurtman Rescue. From left, with their trophies, are Louis Jimenez, (Light Foreman Todd Prangley), Joseph Cowley, and Justin Hirschi.

