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Utility Reporter

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UNITY IS STRENGTH

For up-to-the-minute news, see our website: www.ibew1245.com



Photos by John Storey

“It’s the life!”

IBEW crews for Summit Line Construction, above, and NV Energy, right, work on transmission upgrade near Ely, Nevada. Page 14.



Perfect Day for a Ride. Page 4.





Tom Dalzell
BUSINESS MANAGER

Never give up

As much as I would wish for a dull moment once in a while, they are in short supply.

Our ongoing negotiations with NV Energy took on a whole new urgency in late May with the announcement that the utility was being acquired by Warren Buffett's MidAmerican Energy. This is a great deal for NV Energy executives, but we have serious concerns about the deal given what we know about the way Buffett has treated utility employees in Oregon, Utah, Iowa and Illinois when he acquired their companies. We are hoping for a peaceful relationship with MidAmerican, but we will be prepared for an adversarial one.

In the past weeks we have sent Local 1245 teams to compete in the National Sisterhood United for Journeymen Linemen Rodeo in Pennsylvania and the International Rail Rodeo in Philadelphia. We are preparing teams for the National Gas Rodeo in the fall as well as the International Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas in October.

Four of our member organizers sharpened their campaigning skills working to help defeat Proposition G in Fresno, protecting the union jobs of city trash collectors. Two of our active young members joined the Ride for Respect to Bentonville, Ark. to protest Walmart's treatment of its workers, and two dozen more will be working on Walmart campaigns in California this summer.

Our union is active on many fronts, but this is nothing new. In May we commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Utility Reporter, and the headlines back then indicate that our union was already in fighting trim—standing up for workers at PG&E, at contractors, in the public sector and in Nevada. At the time, no one knew whether this union could survive or not. But 60 years later our members are still engaged in important fights and have important stories to tell.

The look of the Utility Reporter has changed—more color, more photos, more pages. But the topics from that first issue are the same topics that con-

cern us today: workplace safety, our political adversaries, issues with PG&E.

"Things like adequate safety and apprenticeship training on a joint basis have been tried and have proved sound over a long period of years," Weakley wrote in his first column. "Cooperation between management and labor on such things pays off to both parties both in lives and money. We do not have such a joint program with the PG&E. WHY?"

Weakley argues we must be vigilant in the political arena. He was writing in 1953, but his words apply just as well to the our recent battle against Proposition 32:

"I was asked the other day what I thought about some of the various pieces of legislation now pending in the Legislature and the Congress which are designed to further restrict, and in some cases to destroy organized labor. My general answer was that our members are also citizens and any legislation which will injure them economically or otherwise will injure the community in which they work and live in the same way."

Safety was a pressing concern. That first edition of the Utility Reporter carried a story about workplace injuries that sounds all too familiar to us today. Those injured were Tom Blazak of PG&E, injured when the pole he was working on broke; Outside Lineman Slim Andrews, who suffered serious injuries in a fall in Riverside; and City of Lodi Lineman Darrell Wilson, who was seriously burned when he fell into a distribution line.

At the time, Local 1245's labor agreement with PG&E was less than a year old. Weakley wasn't sure what to expect from the company. But he said the union was ready for anything:

"If there is a desire on the part of the company to go back to the jungle through union-busting tactics, we shall fight bitterly. And, if there is a desire to recognize and deal with the Local Union as a stable and responsible organization,

Pact with City of Fernley boosts wages

IBEW Local 1245 members have ratified a new agreement with the City of Fernley, NV.

The two-year agreement, effective July 1, 2013, provides for a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on July 1, 2013.

Paid holidays will now count as time worked when computing overtime.

Other provisions of the agreement include:

- Reinstate step and grade progression July 1, 2014 (4% steps)
- Increase on-call pay from \$3.50 per hour to \$4.25
- Allows use of sick leave to care for sick or injured family member to the third degree of consanguinity
- Increase caps on dependent medical coverage by \$40 per year

The agreement was accepted by the City Council in May.

Negotiating for the union were Wayne Vanassche, Jay Freeman, Don Castro and Business Rep. Randy Osborn.



we will welcome that."

Weakley believed it was vital for the union to communicate regularly with all of its members, and he was determined that the union would have a newspaper equal to the task. For that very first edition of the Utility Reporter back in May of 1953, Weakley himself provided much of the content. He paid \$100 to a San Francisco Chronicle reporter to help with the paper's design and layout. That reporter, Pierre Salinger, went on to

fame eight years later as press secretary to President John F. Kennedy.

For 60 years the Utility Reporter has documented this union's journey. Increasingly we reach our members through the web, Facebook and other electronic media, but the Utility Reporter endures and the union's message remains consistent:

Stand together. Defend your rights. Be involved in the community. Never give up.

Modesto Irrigation District Pact includes retroactive wage hikes

IBEW Local 1245 members and the Modesto Irrigation District Board of Directors have approved two new agreements covering all three bargaining units at the District.

Both agreements include retroactive wage increases of 3.9% effective July 1, 2012 with additional cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) tied to the Consumer Price Index up to 2.2% effective December 2012, and up to 4% in December of 2013.

Medical contributions will remain status quo with employee contributions at 10%.

Other provisions of the agreement include:

- Classifications eligible for additional increases based on market survey.
- Increased flexibility of CTO and vaca-


tion usage.

- Increased educational incentive to \$2500 annually.


The first agreement covering the Utility Service Maintenance (USM) and Professional Supervisory Bargaining Units was approved by the District in December following a member-packed board meeting. The second agreement covering Administrative Technical Clerical (ATC) was most recently approved by the members and the Board of Directors on June 10 and 11.

Negotiating for the union were Mike Gomes, Jeff States, Travis Weese, Richard Behler, Woody Mouw, Steve Carlson, Denise Miller, Business Rep. Charley Souders, and Senior Assistant Business Manager Dennis Seyfer.





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Many new faces on Advisory Council

Dalzell, Davis re-elected to lead union



Tom Dalzell



Mike Davis

Tom Dalzell was elected to a third full term as IBEW Local 1245 business manager in a mail-ballot election tabulated on June 24. Mike Davis, president since 2004, was elected to his third full term.

Vice President Art Freitas and Recording Secretary Chris Habecker were re-elected to their positions without opposition.

Treasurer Cecelia De La Torre, treasurer since 2004, survived a challenge from union activist Lorenzo Arciniega to win a fourth term.

"I congratulate all those who won leadership positions in our union, including the unit officers who were elected at unit meetings in June," said

"I congratulate all those who won leadership positions in our union, including the unit officers who were elected at unit meetings in June. We need strong leadership at every level of our organization to meet some very significant challenges in the coming years." Tom Dalzell

Dalzell. "We need strong leadership at every level of our organization to meet some very significant challenges in the coming years. I look forward to working with the officers, Executive Board, and Advisory Council members that the members have chosen."

Pedro "Pete" Sandoval defeated incumbent Mike Jacobson for the Southern Area Executive Board position.

Tom Cornell was re-elected without opposition to the Executive Board as the representative from Northern Nevada, a seat that was reconfigured in recently-approved by-laws changes that split the Northern Area seat into separate Nevada and California seats. The newly-created Northern California Executive Board seat was captured by Michael Scafani in a hotly-contested six-way race.

Mike Cottrell, who served two terms as Southern Area member to the Executive Board, was re-elected to a third term in the newly-created seat representing Line Clearance Tree Trimmers and Outside Construction.

Stan Zamora was elected without opposition to the newly-created At-Large PG&E General Construction seat on the Executive Board.

Advisory Council

There was competition for several seats to the Advisory Council, the rank-and-file organization that is vested with significant power over union policies and finances.

In a four-way race for three seats representing PG&E General Construction, the winners were Scott Powell, Daniel Stalcup, and Harold Blackshire Jr.

In other contested races for Advisory Council seats:

- Cory Armstrong defeated Dan Novella, Coast Valleys Division of PG&E
- Travis Carlson defeated Jeff Camponodico and Gerald Stinson, Sacramento Division of PG&E and Calibration and Testing



Members of the IBEW Election Board sort ballots. From left: David Thieme, Al Estes, Ron Fort. Photos by Lem Stufflefield

- Tanny Hurtado defeated Ray Banfill, Line Clearance Tree Trimmer Companies
- Thelma Dixon defeated Julia Steffen, Clerical at Large of PG&E – Northern Area
- Lynn Flavin defeated Jose Mendoza and Keith Lyle, Clerical at Large of PG&E—Southern Area

Winning uncontested re-election to Advisory Council seats were:

- Dan Mayo, San Joaquin Division of PG&E
- Michael Patterson, Alameda/Contra Costa Transit District and East Bay Municipalities
- Robert Harty, Stockton Division of PG&E and City of Lodi
- Lauren Bartlett, Sacramento Regional Transit District
- Lee Thomas, Humboldt Division of PG&E
- Mike Jessen, De Sabla Division of PG&E
- Art Torres, Sacramento Municipal Utility District
- Sam Glero, Delegate, WAPA, GCC-1

Two members appointed to vacancies on the Advisory Council in 2012 won election to those same posts. Anthony Brown will continue representing East Bay Division of PG&E, Materials Distribution Department of PG&E, and Foster-Wheeler. Gary Maschio will continue representing San Francisco Division of PG&E and General Office of PG&E.

Non-incumbents winning uncontested races to the Advisory Council were:

- James Hayes, Diablo Canyon Nuclear Generating Station

- Mark Welsh, City of Santa Clara and San Jose Division of PG&E
 - Denver Thomas, NV Energy, TMWA, City of Fernley, Truckee Donner PUD, Mt. Wheeler Power Inc., Wells REA, City of Fallon, Liberty Energy
 - Mark Anderson, Colgate Division of PG&E, Yuba County Water Agency, City of Gridley
 - Steven Segale, North Bay Division of PG&E, City of Healdsburg, City of Ukiah, City of Willits
 - Thomas Greer, Frontier Communications
 - Craig Tatum, Irrigation Districts
- There were no valid nominations for the follow Advisory Council positions:
- Outside Construction
 - Clerical at Large – PG&E Central Area
 - USBR and Western Area Power Administration
 - Drum Division of PG&E, Plumas Sierra REC, and City of Roseville
 - Shasta Division of PG&E, City of Redding, Lassen Municipal Utility District, City of Shasta Lake, and Bella Vista Water District
 - TransCanada
 - California Gas Transmission



Election Judge Mike Grimm sorts ballots.



Members of the IBEW 1245 Election Board sort ballots. From left: Walter Carmier, Bill Hunt, Donchele Soper and Kevin Krummes.

APPOINTMENTS

CONFERENCES

ARA (Alliance for Retired Americans) Conference

Thomas Bird, William Wallace

National Safety Council Spring Labor Division Meeting

Dan Boschee, Art Torres, Al White

9th District Progress Meeting

Georgette Carrillo, Justin Casey
Mike Davis, Cecelia De La Torre
Rodrigo Flores, Art Freitas
Chris Habecker, Jammie Juarez
Rene Cruz Martinez, Christine Raines
Donchele Soper, Jeremiah Tompkins

California Labor Federation's Women of Labor Conference

Donna Ambeau, Elisa Arteaga
Lauren Bartlett
Anna Bayless-Martinez
Georgette Carrillo
Cecelia De La Torre
Christine Drapeau, Guadalupe Flores
Chris Habecker, Lisa Long-Arkoh
Serena Moss, Rachel Ramirez-Hill
Kristen Rasmussen, Veronica Rivera

CALENDAR

Jul 27: Advisory Council, Reno

Aug 13: PG&E stewards med training, Vacaville

Aug 17: PG&E/IBEW Lineman Rodeo, Livermore

Aug 17-18: IBEW 9th District Softball Tournament, Orange, CA

Aug 21: IBEW 9th District Public Sector conference, Vacaville

Aug 22: PG&E stewards med training, Vacaville

Sept 19-21: National Gas Rodeo, Fairview Heights, IL

Oct 12: IBEW Golf Tournament, Vacaville

Oct 19: Int'l Lineman's Rodeo, Kansas City



Members ride their bikes on Highway 113.



Members' motorcycles parked outside of the Renegade Motorcycle shop in Sacramento.

Perfect day for a ride

Local 1245's Howard Stieffer Memorial Motorcycle Rally



Members draw poker hands at Foster's Bighorn in Rio Vista.

Weather was perfect for the Howard Stieffer Memorial Motorcycle Rally and Poker Run, and on May 18 union members responded to the opportunity to have some fun in the sun while honoring the union's late president.

"I counted 32 motorcycles in the Weakley Hall parking lot," said Business Rep Brian Kapaun, the event's principal organizer. "I've attended other rallies in the past and I thought how great it would be to honor Howard's memory in this way."

The first thing members saw when they entered the hall to register for the event was a motorcycle once owned by Stieffer—loaned to the union for the day by its current owner, Business Rep



Brian Kapaun brings Howard Stieffer's old motorcycle into the hall for the IBEW 1245 Howard Stieffer Memorial Motorcycle Rally.



Don and Pam Clifton ride their bike to the hall in the closing stretch of Motorcycle Rally.

Mike Grill.

After participants registered and drew their first card in the Poker Run, it was time to hit the road. In the lead as the bikers gunned out of Vacaville were Assistant Business Managers Ed Dwyer (on his Indian) and Ralph Armstrong (on his Victory).

"The motorcycling community is a lot about friendships and camaraderie, and that's part of the union as well," said Don Clifton, a Foreman 3 at Western Area Power Administration and a 32-

year IBEW member. The rally, for Clifton, was about getting friends together, going places, enjoying the ride and the friendship.

The first stop was Fosters Bighorn—the hunter and sportsman's eatery in Rio Vista that houses a terrific collection of big game trophies. After stretching their legs a bit, and drawing a second poker card, Clifton and the others continued along the River Road to Sacramento's Renegade Classics Biker Outlet, the largest provider of motorcycle apparel and

accessories in Northern California.

After drawing their third poker card, the bikers traveled to the Iron Steed Harley Davidson store in Vacaville for their fourth card, then returned to Weakley Hall for their fifth card, lunch, and the raffle drawing. The top prize: a brand new Harley or \$20,000 cash equivalent. The lucky winner, out of 611 tickets sold, was Russ Rylee from PG&E.

The other lucky winners are the charities who will share the remaining proceeds from the raffle: Autism Awareness, Special Olympics and the Vacaville Police Cadet Program.

An IBEW jacket was awarded to Ernie Mello, a retired PG&E Gas Service Rep from Manteca (and a recipient in 2007 of the IBEW Life Saving Award). The winning hand: three 10s.

Honoring Howard

After the lunch of BBQ tri-tip and chicken, IBEW staff members Sam Tamimi and Ed Dwyer shared some reflections about Howard Stieffer, but the high point came when Patricia Stieffer, Howard's wife, offered a heartfelt appreciation for the event and the man it honored.

Howard "never spent a dime on himself," said Sister Stieffer. "He just work, work, worked."

To encourage him to have a little more fun in life, she saved up and bought him

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Gary Cardoza puts on his helmet at Foster's Bighorn in Rio Vista.

Members ride their bikes back to Weakley Hall.

Photos by John Storey



Lunch time.



Event organizer Brian Kapaun draws raffle tickets, assisted by Sam Tamimi.



Members draw a card to complete their hand at Weakley Hall in Vacaville.



Brian Kapaun presents PG&E retiree Ernie Mello with the jacket he won for his winning hand in the Poker Run.



Brian Kapaun hands Gary Cardoza a gift certificate for a local motorcycle shop after Gary was one of the winners in the raffle during the IBEW 1245 Motorcycle Ride in Vacaville, Calif., on Saturday, May 18th, 2013.

a motorcycle. Two of them, in fact.

Howard, she said, was always concerned with people's rights, making sure that everybody got a fair shake. "He was always working for getting people what they deserved," she said.

Business Manager Tom Dalzell said that he couldn't think of a more perfect way to honor Howard's memory than a motorcycle rally in his name.

"He loved biking, he loved being part of this union, and he believed in helping others," said Dalzell.

Cast of Characters

An event of this size and scope requires a wide cast of characters to succeed. Kapaun singled out for special thanks the crew that helped put the event together:

Utility Reporter



Patricia Stiefer, Howard's widow, expresses her appreciation to members at Weakley Hall.

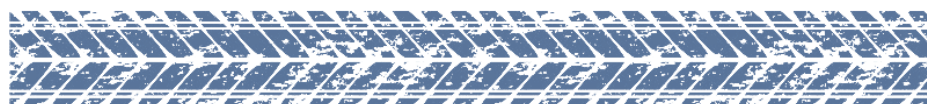
Business Rep Junior Ornelas and his father-in-law Larry Hogan, a retired member of IBEW Local 302; Executive Board member Anna Bayless-Martinez, who traveled the entire rally route in the IBEW 1245 van to help with the poker card draw; Business Reps Kit Stice and J.V. Macor, who tallied the poker hands; IBEW 1245 bookkeeper Gail Varner, who kept track of money, tickets, and registration.

Also assisting at registration were Mike Rapozo, Kapaun's granddaughter Jessie Barone and her boyfriend Diego Hernandez. IBEW 1245 Recording Secretary Chris Habecker, who'd been traveling on union business, flew in directly from Portland, OR to lend a hand.

Each rider took home a t-shirt, specially designed and printed for the event by Brother Pete Sandoval.



A beautiful day, a safe ride, a good meal, a successful event. Let's do it again next year!



What Leadership Looks Like

By Eric Wolfe

If you've ever tried to put one past Dorothy Fortier, you know "The Look."

It was the expression she put on "if something didn't sound right to her or she didn't agree with it," recalls former Business Manager Jack McNally.

"She put her glasses at the tip of her nose and looked at the person whose comments she didn't like," explains her long-time colleague Sam Tamimi. "You could hear a pin drop."

"Dorothy could give you that look," says shop steward Donna Ambeau. "If you were talking about something and you were wrong, she never said anything to you, she'd just stop and look at you and you'd give up on it."

Dorothy Fortier retires this summer as senior assistant business manager, but that title doesn't begin to describe what her leadership has meant to IBEW 1245 during her 38 years on the union's staff.

She has defended labor agreements through the grievance procedure, and strengthened them through negotiations. She's asserted leadership in her own union, built bridges to other labor organizations, demolished traditional barriers based on gender or race.



Hired in 1975 as a confidential secretary.

And she's inspired a new generation of labor leaders with her knowledge, her style, and her tenacity. "Dorothy is soft spoken, sometimes very soft spoken, but she's going to stick to her guns," says shop steward Adrienne Franks, who has served on bargaining committees with Fortier. "She's like a rock ... the one you go to to get the answers you need."

Charting her own course

Born in Oakland, Sister Fortier charted her own course in life. After graduating from Berkeley High in 1964, getting married, and having three kids in as many years, she went to work at UC Berkeley in the College of Letters and Sciences. She learned shorthand in order to qualify for a better position and in 1970 landed a job at the UC Labor Center as secretary to Pete Guidry in the Minority Union Leadership Training Program.

She viewed the job as an opportunity for her own training. She didn't just type up all of the course material—she studied it.

"In many of the unions, minorities were the majority yet still they were not

A formidable presence at the bargaining table, without ever raising her voice.



the folks that were in charge. It was the same with women," Fortier says. "Back then, even the unions that were predominately populated by women were run by men. There was just an unequal distribution of power."



Brand new business rep, 1979.

Fortier tilts her head forward and looks over the top of her glasses. "And there still is."

Guidry recognized her talent and word spread. In January of 1975, Fortier was hired as a confidential secretary by Local 1245 Business Manager L. L. Mitchell. Before long she was put in charge of the Utility Reporter. Business Manager Dean Cofer, who succeeded Mitchell in 1977, used her as a relief rep in the North Bay.

Fortier liked the new responsibilities.

"You got to be out in the field with the members, see what was actually going on," she says. Twice she was passed over for a permanent rep position, but in 1979 she landed one.

"The only job I ever really went after at Local 1245, that I really wanted, was the business rep job. I had seen many business reps handle their assignments and I picked up things from each one. And I knew I could do it," she says. "There was no doubt in my mind."

It's a position, she says, "where you're really with 'the people.' You're with the

members on a regular basis."

One of her stewards in those early days was Ken Rawles, who worked in the Santa Rosa substation maintenance department.

"The North Bay area has always been very loud and boisterous with their union activities," recalls Rawles. Loud and boisterous are two words you would never use to describe Fortier, but Rawles says she adapted quickly.

"She did not give up easily. She was a very good listener, and management really listened to her. She had the attitude, 'I want to get this accomplished, I want to see if we can get this grievance resolved.'"

And yes, Rawles remembers "The Look."

"Somehow she could just throw the issue right back at you with that look, like she was saying, 'You want to think that over and try again?'"

All business

She was all business when it came to grievances, both as a business rep and

later as an assistant business manager when she was in charge of the Fact Finding level of the grievance procedure.

"First of all, you have to have a case. You look for a contract violation and hopefully you have one," she says.

If the company made an error, she would pounce. If they fail to follow the proper steps, she says, "you've got your chance."

She remembers most of the cases that she's handled, including a couple of "unique terminations."

One case involved a light crew foreman who jumped out of the truck and "popped a customer." During the Local Investigating Committee (LIC) meeting the shop steward also came close to popping the customer, whom Fortier remembers as "a cocky little kid" who "probably got exactly what he deserved."

"Unfortunately," she adds, "my grievant stayed terminated."

Another case involved a substation employee "who liked to sleep on the job." He'd already been caught once. Then he managed to sleep through the supervisor ringing the alarm trying to get into the substation, Fortier recalls.

"I couldn't get him back, either."

Early mentors

Among her early mentors were Larry Foss and John Wilder. She remembers Dave Reese, Mert Walters and Jack McNally as staff members who spoke up for her in the early days. And she remembers the stewards who had her back during her North Bay years, including Barbara Symons, Art Fahrner, Ken Rawles, Ray Gallagher.

And Howard Stiefer. "If you had the blessings of Howard," she says, "folks tended not to mess with you."

She's generous in acknowledging the support of others, but Dorothy Fortier established herself in her own right with the union's members very early in the game. She was elected as a delegate to all eight of the International Conventions held during her time at Local 1245, including blow-out first place finishes in the elections of 1996, 2001, and 2006, and very close seconds in 1991 and 2011.

Business Manager McNally promoted Fortier to Assistant Business Manager in 1987, entrusting her with overall responsibility for administering the PG&E Clerical Agreement. As Fact Finder, she played a key role in enforcing the agreement. And she was the undisputed expert on Clerical issues when general negotiations rolled around.

"She knows everything there is to know about the Clerical side of the house," says Assistant Business Manager Ken Ball. "She doesn't say more than needs to be said—she doesn't waste a lot of words. But she gets to the point, cuts to the core pretty quick."

"Anything that had to do with Clerical, I don't care who was the lead in bargaining, they would turn to Dorothy," says Donna Ambeau, who has served on several sets of general negotiations, "because everybody knew she knew everything there was to know about Clerical. People respected her because they knew when she said something, you could take it to the bank."

Fortier's expertise included not just Utility Reporter



Dorothy with union founder Ron Weakley in 2003.

the contract but also the various clarifications, letter agreements, and grievance decisions that define the members' rights on the job.

"If I really wanted to know the ins and outs of something before I went into a meeting, I'd ask Dorothy," says Ambeau. "She has that kind of memory, when she reads something she retains it."

Broader mission

Fortier didn't reserve her talent exclusively for IBEW Local 1245. She clearly believes in the broader mission of the labor movement and repeatedly put her beliefs into action.

She served on the Executive Committee of the IBEW Electrical Workers Minority Caucus for over 20 years, and served nearly 10 years as president of the Alameda Central Labor Council, which recognized her as the "Unionist of the Year" in 2003. She has served on the National Executive Board of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and received honorary awards from the Contra Costa Chapters of the A. Philip Randolph Institute and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and won special recognition from the IBEW Ninth District.

That spirit of engagement and activism has roots in the tumultuous politics of the 1960s. She's famously reserved about her private life and opinions, but she acknowledges that her Afro hair style invites comparisons "on a regular basis" to the radical academic and activist Angela Davis. If pushed to name someone she admires from the 1960s, she names Malcolm X.

"I couldn't get 100% into Martin Luther King's philosophy. It took a lot, you know, to turn the other cheek."

She says she learned early in life "to say what you think—right, wrong or otherwise." That may sound like a formula for instant conflict, but during her long union career she's consistently practiced the art of the possible. When she sees a way forward, there's no holding her back. If there's no way forward, she's not going to waste the time.

If Dorothy Fortier seems a little hard to pigeonhole, that's probably the way she wants it. But that doesn't mean there's any confusion in her own mind about what kind of person she is.

"The bottom line is, you don't have to kow-tow to anyone, no matter what their status is," she says.

If you want to know what she really thinks, signs on the door of her refrigerator hold a couple of clues. One says "Grovel to no one." The other says,

"Speak the truth."

As for the Afro, you can take it any way you want as far as she's concerned—political statement or fashion statement.

"It's probably a mixture. I mean, this is me. But it can be me no matter how I wear my hair—it doesn't really change my personality. It may change the way that other people *perceive* me. But it's just me. I don't get any nicer when I wear my hair straight."

She tilts her head down and gives you "The Look." No more questions about private beliefs or fashion choices.

Union gives a voice

Fortier is typically succinct when invited to comment on the people she has faced across the table over the years.

"A lot of the people at PG&E have earned my respect," she says. "Having credible people on both sides—company and union—always helps resolve problems."

Resolving problems has been her great talent, and the contract she's helped build is her great legacy. But her long career as a labor leader has always been about more than contract administration. Her journey has been about helping people gain a voice.

"Local 1245 provides dignity, financial

"Her efforts on behalf of Clerical members are unparalleled in the history of our union."

—Tom Dalzell

security, job security, opportunities for advancement. It gives people the ability to raise their family in a manner that everyone should be accustomed to but so many people aren't," she says. "There are a lot of people who don't speak up, and the union gives a voice to those workers, and provides them rights and benefits that they may not have without one."

When you have a union, she says, in most cases "employees are treated with respect because if they aren't, there are consequences."

Tamimi, who was mentored by Fortier when he first came on staff as a business rep in 1981, calls her "a woman of few words." It's through her work, he says, that she shows she cares.

"She's out there for the good of the union and the good of the members," says Tamimi. "She's very serious about things. When she says something it's coming from the heart."

Business Manager Tom Dalzell, who has worked with Fortier on the union staff for over three decades, says her contribution to Local 1245 is nearly immeasurable.

"She's worked for five different business managers, and every single one of them recognized her talent and her unwavering commitment to the members," Dalzell says.

"Her efforts on behalf of Clerical members are unparalleled in the history of our union, and anyone who has ever seen her in action understands the incredible strength she brought to this job. When she was sure she was right, there was no stopping Dorothy Fortier."



"...there was no stopping Dorothy Fortier."



SERVICE AWARDS

More awards from Reno, Chico, Redding

Service awards published in the last issue of the Utility Reporter omitted these honorees with 5-20 years. Thank you for your service!

Reno — January 11, 2013



5 Years, 10 Years, 15 Years, and 20 Years

Front row, from left: Derek Olijar, 5 years and David Thieme, 10 years. Back row, from left: (Business Rep. Randy Osborn); Richard Puff, 15 years; John Wilson, 20 years; and Joy McMorran, 10 years.

Chico — February 9, 2013



10 Years

Front row, from left: Steve Lange, Ruth Laffond, and Timothy Schneider. Back row, from left: (Dalzell) and Adam Cabellero.



10 years Front row, from left: James Lomeli, Jonathan Stone, Miguel Villalobos. Back row, from left: (Dalzell), Todd Malecha, and Andy Welzenbach.

Redding — February 8, 2013



20 Years

From left: Randy Sandifer, (Dalzell), and Philip Baker.



15 Years

Front row, from left: Jacob Harper and Scott Campbell. Back row, from left: (Dalzell), Travis Orner, and Aksel Hoyer.



10 Years

Front row, from left: Robert Huntsman and Jamie Freeze. Back row, from left: Aaron Elmore and (Dalzell).



10 Years

Front row, from left: Thomas Sparks and Lynn Oakley. Back row, from left: (Dalzell) and Charles Van Dusen.



5 Years

From left: Tony Aitken, (Dalzell), and David Henry.



Which PG&E pension plan works best for you?

The last round of general bargaining with PG&E brought significant changes to retirement benefits and gives members a chance to choose between the traditional plan and a new cash balance plan. To help members figure out which plan will work best for them, IBEW Local 1245 has created an on-line pension calculator with two functions:

The Basic Calculator allows members to do a single retirement calculation based on certain assumptions that the calculator lets you see.

The Detailed Calculator allows members to compare up to four retirement calculations, to input values for survivor benefits, and/or to override assumptions.

Although IBEW Local 1245 is not assuming any fiduciary duties by providing this calculator, and advises members to seek additional sources of information in making their retirement decisions, the union believes the calculator can be an important component in retirement planning.

The Pension Calculator was designed by Local 1245 member Doug Girouard, and its performance compares favorably to calculations performed by a national consulting firm hired by the union.

Which PG&E pension option works best for you?

Check out our calculator at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/ibew1245retirementcalc/>

Unit changes

Unit 1112, Bakersfield, has changed its start time from 6:00 to 6:30 pm. Dates and location remain the same.

Dave Sankey, Business Representative

Unit 3310, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, has changed the date, time and location of unit meetings. The new information is: the first Tuesday of every other month, starting Aug. 6. The meeting time is 4:30 p.m. The meeting location is 3380 South McCarran, Reno, NV.

Pat Waite, Business Representative

Unit 3111, Eureka, has a new start time—5:00 pm. Location and dates remain the same.

Sonny Hollesen, Business Representative



Auto Advantage

Now there's **one convenient resource** for buying, insuring and maintaining your vehicles—with **special union discounts!**

Cars and trucks are major investments—and often major headaches—for working families. Now your union can help you **cut the costs** and **ease the stress** with special benefits designed to meet ALL of your vehicle needs. Check out the **exclusive deals** available to union members.

- Hassle-Free Buying Service
- Quality Tires and Maintenance
- Affordable Vehicle Insurance
- Full-Service Motor Club

Visit our website for full details.



www.UnionPlus.org/Auto

WEB 08

Brager fills in for Grill

Jim Brager has been tapped to fill in behind Business Representative Mike Grill, who is out on medical leave.

Brager, who initiated into the IBEW in 1975, is a PG&E Electrician working out of Fresno. He is also a member of the Local 1245 Review Committee.

Thanks for stepping in, Brother Brager.



Jim Brager

Pacheco: legal assist

Alex Pacheco will be working with Local 1245 through end of year to assist Local 1245 Staff Attorney Jenny Marston, who is transitioning into her new responsibilities for representing Clerical members at PG&E.

Pacheco served briefly as a legal intern for Local 1245 in the summer of 2010, while studying law at UC Davis. He graduated from UC Davis law school in the spring of 2011.

Thanks for your assistance, Brother Pacheco!



Alex Pacheco

A new approach to PG&E medical

By Bryan Carroll

Changes aim to control costs, improve health

Last summer, IBEW members at PG&E began charting a new course for their medical benefits.

Instead of settling for another increase in premium cost-sharing, members of Local 1245 are bucking the industry trend and trying something different. The major focus of the new approach at PG&E is preventive care—to get members healthier and reduce costs to both the employees and the employer. A key element is the relationship between the member and the primary care physician.

When people keep a closer relationship with their primary care physician—and get treatment for issues that can lead to serious chronic conditions such as diabetes and heart disease—they accomplish two things: they keep themselves healthier in the short term, and delay or avoid many chronic disease conditions and associated costs in the long term.

Since PG&E's health care costs in a given year primarily determine the premiums for the following year, delaying or avoiding the onset of costly medical conditions also helps lower costs for everyone.

As in 2013, there will be only two health care providers in 2014: Anthem Blue Cross and Kaiser Permanente. Unlike 2013, there will be a single medical plan for 2014—the Health Account Plan. It's the same medical plan, available

through Anthem or Kaiser. The main difference will be the provider networks. In the meantime, here are five basic concepts to keep in mind:

- 1. Deductibles:** This is the amount you pay before coverage kicks in.
- 2. Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum:** This is the most you'll ever have to pay in a year for covered services, and it includes amounts you've paid toward the deductible.
- 3. Coinsurance:** This is the percentage you pay (10-20%) of the cost of the service you receive, while the plan pays the remainder (80-90%).
- 4. Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA):** Money you are given and/or earn through a quick health and tobacco screening which can effectively eliminate your deductible.
- 5. Free Doctor Visits and Drugs:** Four free visits to primary care doctors for each covered member and dependent. A large list of free medications for common conditions.

In August, over 100 IBEW 1245 members will receive a full day of training on the 2014 medical changes. They'll learn how the new plan works; get tips on how to be a smart medical plan user; and walk through real-life scenarios.

In September and October, these members will be available in job site meetings all over the PG&E system to explain how IBEW members can benefit from this new approach to medical care.

Letter Agreement boosts staffing levels

Adequate staffing has long been a point of contention between IBEW 1245 and PG&E, but a new letter agreement has both parties pulling in the same direction.

Letter Agreement 12-22, signed by Business Manager Tom Dalzell on May 13, provides targets for increased staffing over the next four years in Gas Operations, Electric T&D, Electric Maintenance and Telecommunications.

All targets are conditioned on availability of qualified candidates and the ability to reach the targets in a safe manner.

In Gas Operations, the goal is to fill 1,350 IBEW-represented positions by 2016, either through new hires or jobs awarded internally.

In Electric T&D, the new agreement builds on Letter Agreement 12-14, which called for the hiring of 60 Pre-Apprentice Lineman positions in 2012 and 2013. The new agreement calls for the company to hire, from 2014-2016, the maximum number of Pre-Apprentice Linemen that it can hire without exceeding an agreed-to ratio, up to 100 Pre-Apprentice Linemen per year. The company has the right, at its discretion,

to hire more than 100 a year if the ratios permit and operational needs warrant it.

The ratios are as follows:

Title 200—one cold apprentice per Electric Crew Foreman (excluding small yards where the parties agree that an apprentice would not receive adequate training); one additional hot apprentice not to exceed one hot/cold apprentice per 2.5 journeymen.

Title 300—one cold apprentice per Subforeman A; one additional hot apprentice not to exceed two hold/cold apprentices per Subforeman A.

Under the agreement, Electric Operations will fill 12 Apprentice Electrical Technician positions each year from 2013-2016. Telecommunications will fill 10 positions each year from 2013-2016 with new hires or internally with employees from outside the IT organization.

"Traditionally, staffing levels are the prerogative of the company," said Business Manager Tom Dalzell, "but our union has expertise on this issue and the company has listened to what we have to say. We think this letter agreement will help address some of our long-standing concerns about workforce shortages."



BROTHER'S

By Eric Wolfe

You're at work. Somebody wants to pull out an underground cable using a truck because it's faster than using a capstan. You know there's a chance the cable could break and come whipping out of the hole. Not good.

So what do you do? Do you speak up?

When people take shortcuts, other members of the crew often "turn their head because they don't want to have a confrontation," said Richard Danieli, a PG&E Transmission Troublemaker and Local 1245 safety steward.

It can be hard to approach a fellow employee who is cutting corners. It's especially hard to speak up if it's about something you yourself might have done in the past, said Jon McCue, a safety steward and Line Foreman for Liberty Energy. "You feel kind of like a hypocrite, saying 'Hey man, don't do that.'"

So what do you do?

That question was pondered long and hard by 82 members who attended a two-day Safety Summit at Weakley Hall on May 1-2 in Vacaville. They came from PG&E, NV Energy, Turlock Irrigation District, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, the City of Redding, Frontier Communications, Davey Tree, Wright Tree and Trees Inc.

These members do different kinds of work—electric, gas, tree trimming, communications. But at one time or another, they've all seen the same problem: a worker taking a shortcut.

And shortcuts can send someone to the hospital, or to an early grave.

Start a Conversation

Over the past couple of years, Local 1245 has built a network of safety stewards to address a rash of workplace fatalities and serious injuries. Their purpose is not to scold rule breakers or set somebody up for disciplinary action. Their purpose is to keep people from getting hurt.

So what do you do when a crewmate takes an unnecessary risk? Try this: start a conversation.

"There are ways of communicating that are non-toxic, that don't promote anger," said Local 1245 Business Rep Rich Lane, a former TID lineman who organized the conference. "By taking a non-judgmental approach, you don't put the other person on the defensive."

Ron Martin, a communication specialist, explored the topic in some depth during the first day of the conference. His message: communication is a two-way street. It means listening as well as talking.

"You're going to be dealing with people who are not going to want to make a change, or don't even recognize that something is wrong," said Lane. "You have to take the approach that, 'I have a message for you, you have a message for me, let's talk this over.'"

The safety steward is not a supervisor. Their goal is not to change behavior

by a threat of punishment. The goal is to increase safety awareness on the job, and remind people that we all want to get home alive each day.

Making jobs safer

The hazards people face in this line of work are legion.

"Everything's dangerous," said Rob Dinsmore, a line clearance tree trimmer with Wright Tree Service. "You can fall. You can get hit by objects. You can cut yourself."

You can also be electrocuted, gassed, injured in an explosion, hit by a car, attacked by animals—or by people who act like animals.

Ernie Peña knows. He was on his way to investigate a gas leak when an angry citizen—who happened to be the recipient of several PG&E shut-off notices—shot him with a 357. Peña survived, but was astonished to learn some months later that a co-worker was given the same tag just 20 minutes after Peña was shot.

Yes, supervisors can be part of the problem, and when they show poor judgment on safety matters there needs to be a conversation about it. But don't expect to change their behavior by berating or scolding.

"People commonly bring complaints to supervision and say 'This is wrong,' but they don't identify how to fix it or bring about a change," said Lane. You're more likely to get change if you can point out that the supervisor could get better results by following a different course.

"It's a lot like negotiating," said Lane. A two-way street.

One Little Misstep

Sometimes safety issues are a result of wider company policies, something the supervisor may have little control over. Case in point: staffing. When you're short-staffed, all those great overtime opportunities can start taking a toll.

"When you're exhausted, when you're tired, you tend to forget, you tend to miss steps," said Lington Gordon, a PG&E fieldman. "One little misstep could cause an explosion, could cost a life or a limb."

Union leaders have wrangled with PG&E, NV Energy and other employers through the years about staffing levels. Safety stewards, obviously, have little influence on their company's staffing policies. But there are ways they can try to minimize the threat to safety. When there's a ton of overtime, for example,



Mike Scafani, PG&E, is on Control the Pressure.



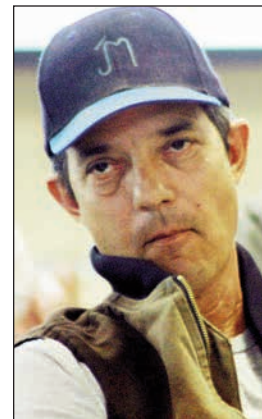
Rob Dinsmore, Wright Tree, is on Keep the Clearance.



Carlos Rodriguez, Utility Tree, is on Keep the Clearance.



Joe Joaquim, PG&E, is on the Local 1245 Health and Safety Committee.



Scott Mahnke, Utility Tree, is on Keep the Clearance.



Richard Danieli, PG&E, is on Hold the Pull.



Ernie Pena, PG&E, is on Control the Pressure.



John McCue, Liberty Energy, is on Hold the Pull.



Ray Banfill, Utility Tree, is on Keep the Clearance.

Local 1245 is continuing to build our network of safety stewards, and provides resources to those who volunteer to serve in this position. Besides training conferences like the May gathering in Vacaville, safety stewards are supported by the union's three peer-to-peer safety committees: Hold the Pull (Electric), Control the Pressure (Gas), and Keep the Clearance (Tree Trimmers). If you are interested in being a safety steward, contract Rich Lane at rvl5@ibew1245.com

KEEPER

they can remind members to recognize the signs of fatigue, and to not be shy about asking for help.

"If you get tired you have a right to tell a supervisor, 'I can't drive that truck in,' " said Gordon. Point out to the supervisor it would be a hazard to the public as well as the employee to put a sleepy driver in a rig for a long drive back to the yard. "You need to get someone to drive that rig, or park it here, drive me home."

These are the sorts of things that safety stewards can bring up with their fellow members going into storm season. When summer's on the horizon, said Gordon, "you start talking about heat stroke." Don't be shy, he says. "Just bring it up."

Looking Out for Each Other

Utility jobs cannot be made completely safe. But they can be made safer, if people remain alert to the risks—and communicate.

Members of a crew already tend to look out for each other. One role of the safety steward is to reinforce that bond, help members keep sight of the fact that they hold each other's lives in their hands.

"I'm with them more than I am with my own family," Danieli said of his union brothers. "And sometimes we can't stand each other—we fight like

brothers. But at the end of the day I don't want to see anybody.."

Danieli doesn't need to finish the sentence. None of us wants to see anybody going to the mortuary instead of going home at night. Danieli names some of the brothers who didn't make it home from work—Max and Felipe—and Brett, who lost his arms.

"I knew those guys all personally, coming up together. It's a brotherhood," said Danieli.

Dane Moore, a PG&E Electric Crew Foreman, freely acknowledges he had wilder days as a young man. But at some



Business Rep Richard Lane heads the Peer-to-Peer safety initiative.



Justin Casey, Davey Tree, is on Keep the Clearance.



Chuck Ritter, Utility Tree, is on Keep the Clearance.



Dane Moore, PG&E, is on Hold the Pull.



John Kent, PG&E, is on Hold the Pull.



Lington Gordon, PG&E, is on Control the Pressure.

point—marriage, kids—he got a new perspective. "I decided to try and be safe and teach that for everyone."

He isn't sure exactly what it will take to help people "make that transition from being a rule breaker, a risk taker." But he told his fellow safety stewards at the safety summit that they had a responsibility to try.

"I don't want any more serious

injuries. I love all you guys, I care about every one of you guys. I don't want to see this anymore. We got to be our brother's keeper. We got to do it."

For a fact, IBEW Local 1245 safety stewards don't have all the answers. But they're asking some of the right questions, starting important conversations, and looking for ways to be their brother's keeper.

Distracted driving: the #1 killer of youth

By Rich Lane

In the last 25 years one million deaths have occurred on the nation's highways, according to National Safety Council Senior Director of Transportation Dave Teater. But by far the largest killer of those between the ages of 15 and 24 years is distracted driving, claiming 35,000 young people per year.

With the advent of the cell phone over 30 years ago, the phenomenon of distracted driving has produced alarming statistics and numerous studies related to how the human brain functions while using a cell phone or texting while driving. The latest statistics compiled in 2011 attribute 213,000 crashes to texting while driving and 1.1 million to cell phone use, numbers largely considered to be underreported by law enforcement.

In physiological terms the human brain is conditioned to do one thing well and when taxed with other tasks will chose to focus on the cell phone conversation over driving on the road.

"Cell phone use is the driving equivalent of .08 blood alcohol content," Teater says. "When you use a cell phone the same effect takes place, the vision narrows, attention dulled and peripheral vision impaired..hands-free is not danger-free—the same effect takes place regardless."

Teater ought to know. His 9-year old son was killed by a driver who ran a stop light while using a cell phone. Now Teater's mission is to spread the word on the tragedy of distracted driving.

Distracted driving is catching the attention of many others across the nation, including national corporations and small business. Coca Cola was sued for \$21 million by a driver who was injured in an accident. It was proved that Coke had no distracted driving policy.

Companies are also finding that using a cell phone for company business does not equate to a more productive employee. Studies have shown that business decisions made while driving are less effective due to a 37% drop in brain activity. Finally, over 2,000 companies who have put in place "no cell phone use while driving" policies have recorded only a 1.5% drop in productivity.

What can you do to reduce distracted driving while on the road?

Try a 30-day test. Put a statement on your pick-up message that you support reducing distracted driving and will not answer while driving. Make a note of how many urgent calls you receive—most likely you will not have many. Prepare your family and co-workers so they know what you are doing. Tell those who may need to contact you in an emergency to call twice in quick succession and you will pull off the road and call back.

At the end of the 30-day trial evaluate the impact this call-free trial had on your commute, work day and driving experience. Chances are the world didn't come to an end, and that the road was a little safer for everybody. Try it, and see what you find out.

Rich Lane is the Local 1245 Business Representative responsible for the peer-to-peer safety program.



SERVICE AWARDS

North Bay

February 1, 2013



35 years

Front row, from left; Dennis Hammer, Ed Zita; Back row, from left; Gerald Jones, James Murgatroyd, and (Dalzell).



30 years

Front row, from left; Rainer Herbst, Victoria Olson, Scott Silva. Back row, from left: (Dalzell), Craig Moeller, and Kenneth Sullivan



25 years

Front row, from left; Timothy Richie, Craig Schmitt, Thomas Sehabiague, Back row, from left: (Dalzell), Michael Williams, and Donald Rathe



40 years

Front row, from left: Brent Turner, Steven Scahill, William Skoonberg. Back row, from left: Business Manager Tom Dalzell, James Findley, and Russell Petersen



35 years

Front row, from left: Mark Barry, Michael Scafani. Back row, from left: John Kent, Barry McDonald, and (Dalzell).



25 years

Front row, from left: Russell Giles, Lem Stubblefield, Rory Morgan, Back row, from left: Sean Gibbs, Jorge Licea, Jennifer Webb, and (Dalzell).



20 years

From left: Rafael Alvarez Jr. and (Dalzell).

North Bay
continued on page 13

HONOREES

45 Years

Fahrner, Art
Flak, Ralph M
Peter, Richard G

40 Years

Bell, Susan L
Carmichael, David L
Endicott, Mark R
Findley, James E
Fitzpatrick, Joseph
Garcia, Jacquelyn I
Giannini, Kenneth F
Mckoon, Chang
O'Brien Jr., Thomas
Petersen, Russell G
Scahill, Steven
Skoonberg, William J
Sobelman, John A

Turner, Brent
Vitigo, Lonnie

35 Years

Asay, Donald D
Barry, Mark W
Bergeron, Len E
Brown Jr., Tommie
Castelli, David A
Davini, Dave
Duarte, Richard E
Frediani, Steven
Gonzalez, Francisco
Hamilton, James S
Hammer, Dennis
Jacka, Chris
Jones, Gerald
Joyce, James J
Kent, John D

Lathrop, Gary M
Mcdonald, Barry D
Murgatroyd, James R
Osteen, Jeanne L
Payne, Thomas
Scafani, Michael A
Silva, Marc
Steele, Robert M
Vitorelo, Joseph
Zita, Ed L

30 Years

Asche, Frederick
Brenner, Daniel E
Herbst, Rainer S
Hoex, Thomas P
Hoogendoorn, Karel R
Jorissen, Cynthia J
Kikuchi, Kerry L

Moeller, Craig S
Olson, Victoria J
Silva, Scott A
Smith, Harvey D
Steffen, Julia E
Sullivan, Kenneth A
Van Galen, Terry A
Watson, Stuart B
Zerkel, Steven

25 Years

Borg, Dean A
Burnett, Michael
Cole, John A
Garrett, Lesley D
Gibbs, Sean A
Giles, Russell M
Johnson, Jr., Kenneth
Keen, Timothy D
Kem, Pheap
Licea, Jorge E
Morgan, Rory D
Nott, Mitchell A

Rathe, Donald A
Ritchie, Timothy B
Rosales, Jose G
Schmitt, Craig J
Sehabiague, Thomas
Silva Rivera, Joann I
Skutt, John C
Stubblefield, L M
Webb, Jennifer J
Welch, Paul G
Williams, Michael L

20 Years

Adayan Jr., Michael
Alvarez Jr., Rafael V
Ban, Chhan
Derho, Anna R
Diaz, Fidel
Horton, Cindy L
Hunkins, Darin A
Kotula, Jon J
Maher, Daniel
Porcaro Jr., Joseph F

Swanson, Kathlene

15 Years

Arikat, Samir M
Faix, Jesse J
Garcia, Bernice
Runner, Kirk W
Torino, Victor
Wallace, David C

10 Years

Aguilar, Mauricio M
Alonso, Jose L
Barboza, Javier
Brenner, Joan E
Campagna, Louis G
Chavez, Felipe
Corbin II, Joseph A
Cunha, Onofre J
Espinoza, Juan
Espinoza, Santos
Glenister, Lisa L

Goekler, Justin L
Griffin, James W
Hurtado, Estanislao
Izzarelli, Josh
Kikuchi, Joseph L
Kingwell, Steven W
Koenig-Hunkins, Maren K
Maffei, Andrew J
Ming, Bobby K
Mooney, Susan M
Rogina, Robert H
Smith, Dean A
Vega, Jorge A
Vitorelo, Tony D
Witten, Ted

5 Years

Andrews, Demetrius L
Avlakeotes, Samuel S
Cabot, Chris C
Clark, Christopher J
Cortez Jr, Manuel G

Duran, Aaron A
Garcia-Haro, Gregorio
Gomer, Michael
Hawkins, Matthew C
Homan, Jason R
Horne, Sean
Jimenez, Jonathan B
Lameyse, Lance E
Lautrup, Jeffrey A
Lobato, Francisco G
Martinez, Alyssa
Mills, Sean C
Olivarez, Miguel
Pearl Webb, Lokelan J
Perez-Tinoco, Arsenio
Pieratt, Edward J
Puckett, Scott E
Purugganan, Steve M
Quadrelli, Casey L
Robinson, Melanie R
Sheperson, Gary T
Simi, Richard S
Wall, Kevin



SERVICE AWARDS

Salinas-Monterey

January 18, 2013

*Congratulations
on your
service!*



45 Years 40 Years

Front row, from left: Jim Walsh, Frank Perez, and William Matsuyama. Back row, from left: Business Manager Tom Dalzell, Art Diaz, Rod Airey, and Mark Thomas.



35 Years 30 Years

Front row, from left: Gilbert Guttirez, Joe Adragna, Ben Kuna. Middle row, from left: George Naranjo, Steve Marshall, Reggie Encallado, Ron Miranda. Back row, from left: Ruben Romero, (Dalzell), and Steve Banta.

15 Years 10 Years

From left: (Dalzell), Terry Ward, Richard Carrillo, and Justin Henson.



15 Years 10 Years

From left: (Dalzell), Gary Bonfante, and Craig Smith.

HONOREES

45 Years

Rypka, Michael P

40 Years

Ball Jr., Ken L
Delsman, John T
Diaz, Arthur P
Donnelly, Earle W
Esparza, Joseph T
Garnett, Ronald B
Gonzales, Joe
Hardin, Larry
Hazel, Kirk

Kawaakoa, B W

Matsuyama, W T
Morikawa, Eddy F
Perez, Frank G
Pusley, David L
Smith Jr., Leonard A
Thomas, Mark
Washington, Randall E

35 Years

Adragna, Joe P
Banta, Steven D
Encallado, Reggie A
Gayhart, Michael C

Guttirez, Gilbert

Higuera, Fernando
Luna, Benjamin
Marshall, Steve G
Naranjo, George
Powers, Larry L
Romero, Ruben
Savala, G E
Thompson, Mark W

30 Years

Amstutz, William K
Fisher, Randy H
Gonsales, Delia

Koviak, Michael
Miranda, Ronald L
Smith, Billy C

25 Years

Apple, Mary L
Clark, Terry L
De Mateo, Greg L
Gallegos, Enrique M
Herrera, Alex E
Mahler, Kevin W
Richardson, Jerry C
Smith, George

20 Years

Garcia, Raymond

15 Years

Alvarado, Jose L
Carrillo, Richard
Honeycutt, Mark
Pina, Jose V
Villa, Martin
Ward, Terry L

10 Years

Alvarez Jr, David H
Bailey, Doug M
Barbosa, Art R
Garcia, Daniel H
Gomez, Herbert A
Gonzalez, Robert
Henson, Justin L
Jung, Wayne J

Lopez, Jose L
Massey, Travis C
May III, Richard C
Pacheco, David A
Smith, Craig B
Steiger, Ronald L
Steinhauer, John M
Valenzuela, Jaime
Vanzant, Shawn W
West, Thomas E

5 Years

Agbalog, Vincent A
Amaya, Jose T
Calderon, Abraham
Chambers, Robin M
De Sousa, Paul
Estrada, Manuel M

Fuentez, Serena
Galaz, Jose I
Garcia, Marco A
Gerberding, Thomas C
Hawthorne, Clifford K
Hendrix, Ryan J
Hernandez, Candelario
Hernandez, Enrique T
Hernandez, Roger
Hernandez, Rojelio
Ilar Sr., Chris L
Jacob, Humberto J
Jimenez, Alfredo
Johnson, James D
Layus, Susan S
Lee, Brian B
Lucas, Jose A

Mendez, Hugo C
Nunez, Antonio
Okumura, Russell B
Orendain, Luis G
Orozco, Raul R
Osborne, Lee A
Palacios, George
Ponce, Solin
Preston, Aladdin C
Rodriguez, Mario
Santillan, Rodrigo
Soto, Alfredo J
Torres, Domingo V
Uranda, Alejandro
Vasquez, Cesar
Villa, Jorge
Williams, Valencio E

North Bay continued from page 12



10 years

Front row, from left: Juan Espinoza, Lisa Glenister, Steven Kingwell. Back row, from left: Business Rep Carl Lamers and (Dalzell).



5 Years

From left: Manuel Cortez Jr., (Lamers), (Dalzell), and Sean Horne.



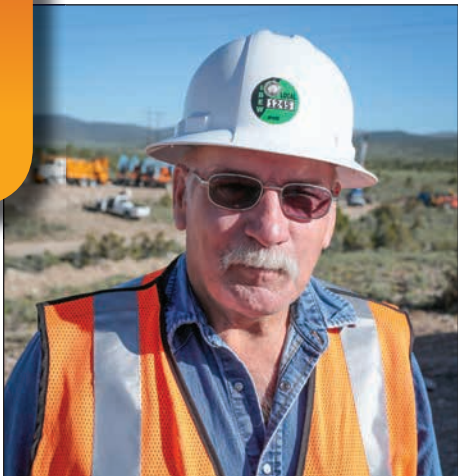
Aaron Harsy and Kevin Kamakani Jr. work from the bucket for Summit Line Construction.

It's the life!

"You can't do anything more enjoyable than this."



John Durham works from the bucket for NV Energy.



Local 1245 Business Rep Richard Ingle



Lineman Jeff Utz, Summit Line

IBEW hands for Summit Line Construction were putting in 12-hour days, seven days a week in June, racing to meet a deadline for folding the existing Falcon-Gonder 345 kV transmission line into Robinson Substation, about 20 miles west of Ely, Nevada.

The Summit crews were stringing wire on newly-built H-frame steel monopoles, while a short distance away NV Energy transmission crews were working on another part of the 345 kV line, which will be stepped up to 500 kV at the Robinson Sub for a journey south to the Las Vegas area.

The project is part of the Southwest

By Eric Wolfe
Photos by John Storey

Intertie Project (SWIP), an effort to increase grid reliability by providing access to a larger pool of load and resources.

The long hours can cramp your social life. A shirt worn by one crew member sums it up like this: "Eat, sleep, work, repeat." But the overtime looks good on the paycheck.

"They're going to have enough money to burn a wet mule," says IBEW Local 1245 Business Rep Richard Ingle, who visited the Summit crews in early June.

Red Book

The work may be hard, but at the end of the day the IBEW agreement makes

sure you get what was agreed to.

"We've got a red book that we go by," says Jeff Utz, a Summit journeymen lineman. "That is our safety rules. We've got our breaks, we've got our lunches, our overtime, our double time."

Utz has worked the other side of the fence.

"On the non-union side of the business, you have no say. They can fire you when they want to fire you for any reason they want to." Utz, a third generation lineman, doesn't mince words when he talks about the role of the IBEW in his life.

"It is my whole life, IBEW. Our benefits, our insurance—it's my job. It supports my family."



Kevin Kamakani Jr., Summit Line



Not everyone made it into this shot, but IBEW members on the Summit Line Construction job included Dutch Werbel, Gene Lee and Robert Stephenson, Operators; Jeromy Wyllis, Kevin Kamakani Jr. and Brandon Spackman, Apprentice Linemen; Eddie Iboa and Rene Alcaraz, Groundmen; Kyle Seawear, Jeff Utz and Aaron Harsy, Journeyman Linemen; Tim Laursen, HEO; Jim Padgett, Superintendent.



NV Energy crew, from left, Aron Huntington, Lineman; J. B. Wines, Transmission Line Foreman; Steve Emis, Lineman; John Durham, Lineman; Bob Callahan, Equipment Operator; Leonard Massie, Crane Operator (IUOE Local 3); and Dan Mondragon, Mechanic.



Jeff Utz and Brandon Spackman working for Summit Line.

You hear much the same thing from Aaron Harsy, a journeyman with 16 years in the IBEW.

“The union provides safety in the workplace, provides us the benefits and pay we deserve, and backs you up if a contractor tries to manipulate the contract. The union provides us with our insurance and our retirement.”

Harsy, who got lineman training in the Navy, says he’s doing exactly what he wants to be doing. “You can’t do anything more enjoyable than this.”

Apprentice Kevin Kamakani, Jr., who hails from Ontario, CA, says being on the road so much can be a little stressful. “I may well not be home for the last three years of my apprenticeship,” he says. But

he’s not about ready to turn his back on the line-man’s life.

“I love it—this is a dream come true for me,” he says. Older linemen may get used to the spectacular vistas that come with line work, but Kamakani still appreciates the view up there.

“When the sun’s setting you see the flames all across the desert,” he says.

Kamakani’s been in the trade for just three years, but that’s plenty long enough to understand the role of the IBEW.

“The union is for protection of workers—for safety, to make sure you have a life-long career, and protecting your rights.”



Aaron Harsy and Kevin Kamakani Jr. work from the bucket for Summit Line Construction.

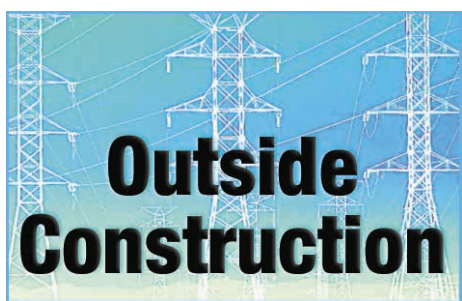


John Durham works from the bucket for NV Energy.

Utility Reporter



Aron Huntington works from the bucket for NV Energy.



Good to be an Outside Line member this summer

Work from every corner

By Ron Cochran

The work outlook is on schedule as forecasted in prior months' reports. There is work from every corner of Local 1245's jurisdiction at this time.



Ron Cochran

We are performing deteriorated pole and cross arm replacement projects, Rule 20, and Underground Cable replacement in nearly every county in Northern California. Re-conductor projects as far north as Arcata, CA and Transmission Line construction projects as far east as Ely, NV. There's plenty of work in Fresno, Bakersfield and all over the Central Coast. It's good to be an

Outside Line member this summer.

GRIEVANCES

Two major grievances have been settled over Outside Line Contractors subcontracting to non-signatory civil contractors. This takes work from our members. The grievances were settled in the members' favor.

We are still working through a load of grievances on the Automated Metering Project in Northern Nevada. These grievances should be completed in the next thirty days.

We settled a wrongful termination grievance on one of the solar projects, in the members favor.

We have a large missed meal grievance in the second step in Northern Nevada. We are working towards resolution, but the grievance looks like it is headed towards a labor management committee.

ORGANIZING

The following Contractors were recently organized:

- HM Pipeline Services Corp.—Gas Inspector agreement
- Alpha Pacific Concrete—Outside Line Construction agreement
- Pinnacle Power Service, Inc. —Outside Line Construction agreement
- KVA Electric—Outside Line Construction agreement

APPRENTICE REPORT

We currently have 343 Outside Line apprentices registered in our JATC pro-

gram and five traveling apprentice working in our jurisdiction.

- 103 apprentices are working out of Local 1245
- 152 are working out of Local 47
- 25 are working out of Local 396
- 44 are unemployed (20 are really unemployed, but 24 can't work)
- We have graduated 14 apprentices to journeyman lineman.
- We have indentured 44 Outside Line apprentices this year.
- We have two traffic signal maintenance apprentices registered.
- One is working for Republic Electric in 1245's jurisdiction.
- One is unemployed
- Zero are working for Republic Electric in 47's jurisdiction.
- We have graduated a total of 18 traffic signal apprentices.

2013 TRAINING SCHEDULE & SPECIAL EVENTS

- First Aid & CPR is the 2nd Saturday of every month at our Riverside and Sacramento facility.
- IBEW 9th District Softball Tournament, Aug. 17-18, 2013, Orange, CA
- IBEW Golf Tournament, Oct. 12, 2013 Vacaville
- International Lineman Rodeo, Oct. 17-19, 2013

INJURED WORKERS FUND

The balance of the fund as of May 24, 2013 was \$560,389.58. There no claims paid in the month of May.

DISPATCH

	JUNE 2013	Year to Date
Lineman	107	881
Apprentice Lineman	22	140
Equipment Man	11	161
Groundman	24	551
Substation Tech	4	25
Fabricator Tech	7	104
Cable Splicer	8	58
Total	183	1920

OUT OF WORK BOOKS

AS OF JUNE 23, 2013

BOOK #					
L-1	19	CS-1	2	F-1	2
L-2	30	CS-2	9	F-2	10
L-3	0	CS-3	1	F-3	
L-4	109				
		GM-1	32	Sub-1	0
ES-1	9	GM-2	31	Sub-2	1
ES-2	5	GM-3	231	Sub-3	83
ES-3	17	GM-4	371		

Justin Casey wins 'Young Organizer' award

Justin Casey, a line clearance tree trimmer for Davey Tree and a member organizer for IBEW 1245, has received the 2013 Young Organizer Award.

The award was announced on June 19 by the Public Interest Network, a national consortium of nonprofit organizations dedicated to training organizers and advocating for social and economic justice. The award is granted to five people chosen from a national pool of nominees who are under 30 years of age.

Brother Casey was nominated by IBEW 1245 in recognition of his work supporting our organizing program. Casey's organizing work for the union began when he was recruited by IBEW 1245 Business Representative Carl Lamers to work on the campaign to win ratification of the landmark Master Agreement with tree trimming contrac-

tors. During that campaign Casey crisscrossed northern California to inform members from five companies on the merits of the Master Agreement, which was ultimately ratified by the members.

Casey then volunteered for the "No on Prop 32" campaign in the fall of 2012 and the union's community service projects on Earth Day 2013. Casey also participated in the Youth Caucus at the IBEW Ninth District Progress Meeting in the spring.

Currently Casey is a lead IBEW member organizer for the OUR Walmart summer campaign. He recently returned to California from Bentonville, Ark., where he joined 300 Walmart workers bringing grievances to the annual Walmart shareholder meeting.

The formal presentation of the award was made at the NetRoots Nation conference on June 22 in San Jose.

Lompoc employees choose IBEW 1245

Employees at the City of Lompoc voted overwhelmingly for representation by IBEW 1245.

Operations employees voted 98-5 for representation by IBEW, a 95% yes vote. Clerical employees voted 20-3 for representation, an 86% yes vote.

"This was an incredibly strong vote. The Operations vote was nearly unanimous, and the support among Clerical was just amazing," said IBEW 1245 Organizer Fred Ross Jr., who worked on the campaign.

The employees were previously represented by an independent union, the Lompoc Employees Association (LEA). On Jan. 29 of this year the employees voted to be represented by IBEW 1245, but the election had to be repeated due to a technical problem with the first vote.

The vote was conducted under the auspices of the Glendale office of the Public Employment Relations Board, and assures that Lompoc employees will have IBEW 1245 at their side when they resume negotiations with city management.



City of Lompoc union activist Jaime Tinoco spoke at a recent IBEW 1245 leadership conference.

"It's a relief," said Jaime Tinoco, a leader in the former LEA and a prime mover of the campaign to get representation from the IBEW. He said there could be some bumps in the road in the short term as the city adjusts to the new bargaining relationship, but that "long term it will be much better for city employees" to have IBEW representation.

Joining Tinoco at the bargaining table on July 2 when negotiations resume will be newly-minted IBEW members Adrien Boyd, Shawn Wynne, Dave Peretti, Travis Kalin and Gary Silvaugh, along with IBEW 1245 Assistant Business Manager Ray Thomas.

Congratulations to our new IBEW brothers and sisters at the City of Lompoc!



Outside members sworn in

Two members were sworn in to IBEW membership at the Outside Construction unit meeting on June 12. Groundman Juan Calderon, left, and Apprentice Mike Bradley, right, are congratulated by unit chair Scott Hudelson, who was re-elected to his post at the same meeting. Other unit officers elected were: Vice Chair Jay Greer and Recording Secretary Shawn Cunningham.

Thanks, Richard

Brother Richard Ingle is returning to the field in July.

Richard has done an outstanding job as a Temporary Field Representative for the Outside Line members of Local 1245. During peak periods Local 1245 adds temporary field staff to conduct crew visits and help with many other tasks. This helps make it possible for members and travelers speak to a rep on the jobsite on a routine basis. This also helps to keep problems that arise small, and to get them resolved

before the problems turn into grievances.

The Temporary Field Representative has to be self-motivated and self-disciplined when dealing with members and employers, and be able to drive over 1,000 miles week every week. This is position is a real rodeo and Richard rode the bull and gets a winner score.



Richard Ingle



SERVICE AWARDS

San Jose January 25, 2013



40 Years

Front row, from left: Jim Drapchaty, and Richard Gomez. Back row, from left: Carlos Trujillo, Robert Nimrod, (Dalzell).



45 Years

IBEW 1245 President Mike Davis, middle, is congratulated on 45 years of service by Business Rep Bill Brill, left, and Business Manager Tom Dalzell.



40 Years

Front row, from left: Ralph Lentz, and Roger Beam. Back row, from left: Joe Ruiz, Dennis Thompson, and Steve Camarena.



40 Years

From left: Silvio Santo, Joe Lopez, (Dalzell).



30 Years

From left: (Dalzell), Becky Fabella, and David Locatelli.



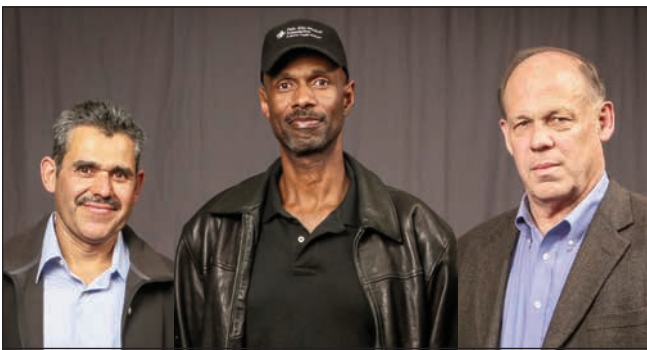
35 Years

Front row, from left: Gary Longworthy, Harold Sakoda. Back row, from left: Chris McKernan, (Dalzell), and Gene Lighty.



20 Years 10 Years 5 Years

From left: Kirk Haugen, (5 year); Aaron Riggins, (10 year); (Dalzell), and Jesus Hernandez, (20 Year).



25 Years

From left: Eduardo Arellano, Terry McKinney, (Dalzell).

HONOREES

45 Years

Airey, Ronald L
Ardizzzone, D W
Davis, Michael J
Edwards, John K

40 Years

Aldama, Betty A
Beam, Roger A
Camarena, Steven
Cameron, Michael A
Contreras, Manvel
Drapchaty, Jim S
Gomez, Richard R
Guerrero, Tony S
Hall, James
Lentz, Ralph R
Leopold, Gary B
Lopez, Debbie
Lopez, Jose J
Moise, Mario
Nimrod, Robert A
Nystrom, Erik G

Ormerod, Keith
Panighetti, Steven
Perez, Reynoldo
Reinke, Thomas E
Riley, Curtis W
Ruiz, Joe O
Ryan, Linda L
Santo, Silvio
Savage, Martin
Storment Jr., Ralph L
Thompson, Dennis G
Trujillo, Carlos E
Walsh, James J
Yamashita, Harry

30 Years

Balcazar, Dogoberto
Capwell, David B
Carbajal, Rosie
Cheung, Lily
Dalao, Frank S
Darbyshire, Keith A
Dickinson, George M
Hering, Jeanette

King, Vickie S
Langworthy, Gary L
Lighty, Gene B
Marotti, Robert L
Martin, Robert U
Mckernan, Chris
Painter, Dave W
Robles, Magdalena
Sakoda, Harold
Schaefer, Greeg A
Ware, Neil P
Waterhouse, Phillip J
Wendel, Danny W

30 Years

Alcorn, David K
Beltramo, Patricia
De Maria, Frank L
Fabella, Rebecca M
Fluitt, Lawrence A
Gandolfi, Dawn A
Hughes, Kyle R
La Fon, Michael A
Leon, Felix V

Locatelli, David G
Longa, Joseph J
Moore, Duane A
Ratto, Larry J
Sisson, Joseph
Tapia, Emilio R
Thomas, Mark T
Vogt, Bonnie
Wiborn, Kurt P

25 Years

Arellano, Edward
Bianez, Edward C
Bonfante, Gary P
Bowling, Gilbert
Burgueno, Maria S
Courpet, John P
De La Guerra, Steve A
Garcia, Fred B
Gilman, Gilbert G
Mckinney, Terence L
Nunez, Tamra E
Spring, Leslee E
Thompson, Kathryn L
Varvell, Brad R
Wamsley, Donald P

20 Years

Anderson, David J
Bargas Jr., Gregory R
Barney, Allen L
Calderon, Kathy R
Grimm, Barbara
Hernandez, Jesus A
Maldonado, Richard
Stephenson, David M

15 Years

Deforge III, Robert E
Gomez, Ramon A
Kang, Sandeep S
Martinez, Rutilo H
Mcdonell, Mark R

10 Years

Aamir, Ali H
Acosta, Rudolph B
Aker, Barbara
Alarid, Scott C
Ambriz Jr, David
Avalos, Joann
Bell, Robert A
Brum, Mark A

Carbaugh, Walter F
Christopher, Shaun G
Delas, Natalie J
Durr, Eric S
Escobar, Santos D
Fagan, Jill D
Foster, Mary K
Frye, Mark A
Graham, William A
Grove, Andrew J
Guerrero, Rene A
Hathaway, Marcus C
Hickey, Bryan R
Horn, David A
Jelleff, Phil M
Keate, Michael W
Kitchen, Ryan N
Koontz, Frederick M
Latimore, Che'
Leal, Jose M
Little, Mick M
Lopez, Amber S
Lumactod, Mariel C
Martinez, Romanic B
Mccarty, Tim J
Mckillip, Donna J
Morales, Yolanda A
Navarette, Raul A

Parks, Shaun T
Perez Jr, Jaime E
Ramos, Noel J
Riggins, Aaron V
Rinehart, Roger C
Sanders, John L
Secola, Jamie G
Sefton, James T
Smith, James V
Stuart, Darren C
Torres, Rogelio
Wong Jr., Joseph

5 Years

Anderson, Greg P
Aryanpour, Kimberly P
Ayala, Eric F
Baker, Britany L
Barbosa, Veronica C
Caldera, Guillermo
Callegari, Fiero D
Conoscenti, David J
Contreras, Matthew D
Cressio, Vincent J
Ellis, Melissa S
Eufemi, Benjamin M
Farris, Shannon J
Farzaneh, Kovon K

Fontanilla, Chris R
Hansen, Eric G
Haugen, Kirk A
Herrera, Alexander J
Herrera, Ruben H
Hollis, Richard N
Howard, Daniel
Howard, Darlene
Ida, Craig J
Kava, Elizabeth A
Levas, Nicholas
Navarez, Jack T
Nguyen, Chuong B
Nguyen, Cong C
Ochoa, Vanessa A
Ontiveros, Reynaldo
Perkins, Vashawn T
Pernitzke, Michael
Phung, Minh H
Ruiz, Jessica
Salinas, Rosana
Sanchez, Tina L
Spencer, Will L
Tataw, James B
Waters, Donald G
Westbrook, Andrew G
Yamaguchi, June
Zandate, Louie



IBEW
Local 1245
FAMILY
SOCCER
& PICNIC

Friendship, Unity and Solidarity

Alan Witt Community Park, Fairfield May 4, 2013/Sabado, 4 de Mayo, 2013 ... a day of soccer, kids games



Photos by John Storey



Close to 300 line clearance tree trimmers and family members came to Fairfield on a sunny day for the second part of the IBEW Local 1245 Soccer Tournament.

In keeping with the theme "Friendship, Unity and Solidarity," tree trimmers took the opportunity to meet fellow tree trimmers from other areas, enjoy a barbecue lunch with friends and family members, and watch the kids beat the holy heck out of a pinada. Out on the field, the competition was fierce but friendly in a single elimination tournament that featured teams from Auburn/Placerville, Napa, Sacramento, Concord, Solano, an "open" team, and two teams from San Rafael.

Juan Garibay, who works for Davey Tree in Napa, has participated in the

tournament for three straight years, in part to meet tree trimmers from other areas.

"It's good to know more people. They've got the same issues we do, about safety, operations at work—it's good to know what we can do to do better at work," said Garibay, who also serves as a safety steward for the union.

Business Manager Tom Dalzell hailed the members enthusiasm for this event, which has grown in size and participation over the past three years.

"In addition to today's tournament," Dalzell said as he watched the teams

compete on the field, "we had eight teams playing down in Merced three weeks ago. That's a total of 16 teams this year—it got so big we had to split the tournament into two parts to make it work."

The Fairfield event was held May 4 at Alan Witt Community Park in Fairfield. The first day of the tournament was held April 13 at Ada Givens Park in Merced.

Jaime Sosa, who works for Davey Tree in Concord, said he appreciated the union sponsoring the tournament. He described line clearance tree trimming as hard work that can be dangerous, but

also enjoyable.

"I like to work with trees. I love trees. Trees are beautiful," said Sosa. "Once you learn the job it's even fun to do this type of work."

To stay safe, he said, "You've got to concentrate at all times. You've got to stay awake, always be conscious of yourself."

Tanny Hurtado, a foreman for Davey Tree and an IBEW 1245 shop steward, said the tournaments were important events for tree trimmers and that he hoped the union would continue to sponsor them.

"We appreciate it, and hopefully we can keep doing this every year, so that tree trimmers will see that they're not alone, that we have unity and that the union is with us," Hurtado said.

July – September 2013



Amistad, Unidad, Solidaridad

, a BBQ, cook-off, prizes, and fun! ... un día de futbol, juegos para niños, un BBQ, un "Cook Off," Premios y diversión!



Casi 300 podadores de árboles para el despeje de líneas y sus familiares llegaron a Fairfield un día soleado para participar en la segunda parte del Torneo de Fútbol del IBEW Local 1245.

Continuando con el tema "Amistad, Unidad y Solidaridad," los podadores de árboles aprovecharon esta oportunidad para conocer a podadores de árboles de otras áreas, disfrutar un almuerzo de barbacoa con amigos y familiares, y ver a los niños pegarle a la piñata. En el campo, la competencia era feroz pero amistosa en un torneo de eliminación directa con equipos de Auburn/Placerville, Napa, Sacramento, Concord, Solano, y un equipo "abierto" y dos equipos de San Rafael.

Juan Garibay, quien trabaja para Davey Tree en Napa, ha participado en el torneo durante tres años seguidos, en parte para conocer podadores de árboles de otras áreas.

"Es bueno conocer más gente. Ellos tienen los mismos problemas que nosotros en cuanto a seguridad, operaciones de trabajo. Es bueno conocer qué cosas podemos hacer para mejorar nuestro trabajo," dijo Garibay, quien también es delegado de seguridad para el sindicato.

El Gerente de Negocios Tom Dalzell felicitó a los miembros por su entusiasmo en este evento, que ha crecido en tamaño y en participación en los últimos 3 años.

"Además de los juegos del torneo de hoy," dijo Dalzell mientras veía a los equipos compitiendo en el campo,

"hace tres semanas tuvimos ocho equipos compitiendo en Merced. Eso hace un total de 16 equipos este año. Se ha hecho tan grande que tuvimos que dividir el torneo en dos partes para poderlo manejar."

El evento de Fairfield se llevó a cabo el 4 de mayo en el Parque Comunitario Alan Witt en Fairfield. El primer día del torneo fue el 13 de abril en el Parque Ada Givens en Merced.

Jaime Sosa, quien trabaja para Davey Tree en Concord, dijo que apreciaba que el sindicato patrocinara el torneo. Describe su trabajo de poda de árboles y despeje de líneas, como un trabajo fuerte que puede ser peligroso, pero también agradable.

"Me gusta trabajar con árboles. Me encantan los árboles. Los árboles son

hermosos," dijo Sosa. "Una vez que se aprende a hacer el trabajo, llega a ser divertido hacer este tipo de trabajo."

Para mantenerse seguro, comentó, "uno tiene que estar concentrado todo el tiempo. Tienes que estar despierto y consciente de ti mismo todo el tiempo."

Tanny Hurtado, un capataz de Davey Tree y representante sindical del IBEW 1245, dijo que los torneos son eventos importantes para los podadores de árboles y que espera que el sindicato los siga patrocinando.

"Lo apreciamos y esperamos seguir haciendo esto cada año, para que los podadores de árboles vean que no están solos, que tenemos unidad y que el sindicato está con nosotros," dijo Hurtado.

continued on next page



First place: Sacramento. Primer lugar: Sacramento



Second place: Santa Rosa. Segundo lugar: Santa Rosa



Third place: Napa. Tercer lugar: Napa



Business Manager Tom Dalzell hands out medals to the winning teams. El Gerente de Negocios Tom Dalzell entrega las medallas a los equipos ganadores.



A family affair. Un evento familiar.





- TEAMS:**
- Auburn/Placerville
 - Napa
 - San Rafael (1)
 - San Rafael (2)
 - Sacramento
 - Concord
 - Solano
 - Open team



Kids loved it. Los niños lo disfrutaron mucho.



Barbecue and cook-off. Yumm! Barbacoa y concurso de cocina. ¡Qué rico!





East Bay Chapter of the Retirees Club at their June meeting.

Photo by Lou Mennel



East Bay retirees continue tradition of solidarity

IBEW Local 1245 retirees in the East Bay are continuing a long tradition of solidarity.

The Retirees Club was organized in the 1980s by retired Local 1245 members in the East Bay. Among those who got the club going were two of the union's principal founders—Ron Weakley and Don Hardie. They're reasoning was this: solidarity was the source of their strength when they were on the job, and they wanted to retain the power of unity in retirement.

At first the club had just one chapter, but over the years it has grown to a robust retiree organization with five California chapters and four more in Nevada.

The East Bay chapter remains a friendly place for Local 1245 retirees to gather. It is also a potent source of volunteer manpower should threats arise from employers or politicians.

The chapter suffered a setback in 2011 with the death of its long-time champion, Mike Silva, but it continues to thrive today under the leadership of Mel Hambrick and Larry Darbee.

The chapter meets on the second Thursday of the month at the headquarters of our sister local, IBEW 595, located at 6250 Village Parkway, in Dublin, CA. If you live in the East Bay and haven't visited this vanguard chapter of the IBEW 1245 Retirees Club, maybe it's time to give it a try.

Retiree Club Meeting Schedule

You can find the specific dates for each month at 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 Com-

munity, 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., Yerington, 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, Yerington, Carson City or 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!

Gary Abney
Oakley, CA
28 years

Paula Acebo
San Leandro, CA
9 years

Clark Ackerman
Salinas, CA
33 years

Angelica Acosta
Redwood City, CA
11 years

Larry Alexander
Manteca, CA
39 years

David Amaral
Acampo, CA
35 years

Gary Apodaca
Jackson, CA
35 years

James Apodaca
Vacaville, CA
25 years

James Ashford
Turner, OR
25 years

Karl Aspinall
Bakersfield, CA
18 years

George Azera
Fresno, CA
41 years

Gary Badarello
Castro Valley, CA
35 years

David Bahr
Eureka, CA
28 years

Carmen Baker
Fresno, CA
26 years

David Baker
Santa Cruz, CA
27 years

Gary Balanesi
Magalia, CA
14 years

Robert Banaga
Hercules, CA
40 years

William Banks
Nampa, ID
36 years

John Barrett
Novato, CA
43 years

Brian Bastoni
Kelseyville, CA
21 years

Andrew Baumann
S San Francisco, CA
19 years

Michael Benak
Bakersfield, CA
20 years

John Bianchini
Colfax, CA
14 years

Daniel Bonini
Atascadero, CA
40 years

Jeffrey Bowman
Cincinnati, OH
28 years

Paul Boyd
Livermore, CA
32 years

G Brabec
Cobb, CA
30 years

John Brady
Vallejo, CA
37 years

Richard Brown
Oakhurst, CA
39 years

Clifford Bryan
Bakersfield, CA
29 years

Larry Burns
Oakland, CA
36 years

John Cabral
Paso Robles, CA
25 years

Valerie Cal
Clovis, CA
32 years

Daniel Camarena
Madera, CA
40 years

John Campbell
San Carlos, CA
39 years

Patrick Cantwell
San Francisco, CA
14 years

Nancy Cariker
Bakersfield, CA
31 years

David Carmichael
Santa Rosa, CA
40 years

Loretta Carter
Manton, CA
30 years

Sally Castellanos
San Jose, CA
18 years

Renee Cederquist
Pleasanton, CA
34 years

Thomas Cervantes
Roseville, CA
38 years

Kan Chan
San Francisco, CA
39 years

Steven Clark
Bakersfield, CA
30 years

Carl Coggins
Pollock Pines, CA
39 years

Thomas Colgate
Red Bluff, CA
35 years

Lawrence Connolly
McKinleyville, CA
18 years

Kathleen Cook
Salinas, CA
18 years

Guillermo Coronel
Fresno, CA
32 years

Linda Coutts
Tracy, CA
18 years

Paul Crook
Santa Rosa, CA
28 years

Timothy Cruse
Garberville, CA
35 years

James Dame
Cottonwood, CA
33 years

Daniel Darden
Pleasant Hill, CA
64 years

Alan Davidson
Penn Grove, CA
18 years

Dwight De Long
Paradise, CA
32 years

Thomas Devlin
Paradise, CA
44 years

Yolanda Diaz
Antioch, CA
10 years

Arthur Diaz
Monterey, CA
40 years

Michael Dillon
Madera, CA
34 years

Cornelio Dominguez
Fremont, CA
33 years

Earle Donnelly
Shingle Springs, CA
41 years

James Doud
Woodland, CA
34 years

Rodney Dyer
Paradise, CA
41 years

Raymond Estrada
Fresno, CA
38 years

Richard Everett
Santa Rosa, CA
34 years

William Ferguson
Olivehurst, CA
18 years

Jack Ferguson
Pittsburg, CA
31 years

James Findley
Richmond, CA
40 years

Ronald Finney
Henderson, NV
20 years

Barbara Flohr
Fresno, CA
40 years

Mary Flores
King City, CA
29 years

Donald Flores
San Rafael, CA
43 years

Steve Freitas
Atwater, CA
39 years

Gerhard Freund
San Pablo, CA
44 years

Gilbert Garcia
San Jose, CA
38 years

Thomas Garcia
Sacramento, CA
41 years

Esequiel Garcia
Antioch, CA
13 years

Ricky Garcia
King City, CA
38 years

Kenneth Giannini
Santa Rosa, CA
41 years

Thomas Gibson
Honolulu, HI
11 years

Martin Gilson
Daly City, CA
43 years

Donald Glass
Goodyear, AZ
10 years

Erlinda Gonzales
Stockton, CA
29 years

Dennis Goodman
Anderson, CA
28 years

Jim Gordon
Santa Rosa, CA
41 years

Alva Grimm
Orland, CA
9 years

Janice Guerrero
Stockton, CA
18 years

Jeanette Hancock
Carmichael, CA
29 years

David Haney
Austin, TX
18 years

Jeffrey Hardin
Antioch, CA
34 years

Catherine Hastings
Umatilla, OR
8 years

Ronald Hendren
Turlock, CA
33 years

Lee Hensley
Novato, CA
42 years

Joseph Herrmann
Watertown, SD
19 years

James Hinds
Cave Junction, OR
43 years

Catherine Hollis
Independence, OR
23 years

David Hsu
Carmichael, CA
14 years

George Hsu
Antioch, CA
38 years

Ronald Hummel
Fall River Mills, CA
33 years

Becky Husted
Salinas, CA
9 years

Karen Hutcherson
Holmes Beach, FL
21 years

Geary Jackson
Fresno, CA
48 years

Geary Jackson
Fresno, CA
48 years

Francis Janowicz
Gold Beach, OR
40 years

Jack Jardine
Millville, CA
42 years

Marlene Jefferson
Paso Robles, CA
35 years

Nathan Jensen
Aloha, OR
11 years

Diane Johnson
Vacaville, CA
30 years

William Johnson
Cottonwood, CA
33 years

George Jones
Chico, CA
40 years

Brian Kapaun
Loomis, CA
34 years

continued on next page

July 2013 - June 2014

Time to pay Retiree Club dues

It's time, retirees!
Your dues for membership in the Local 1245 Retirees Club are now due and payable.

What does it cost to remain connected to the union that fought for your benefits while you were working and continues to protect your benefits in retirement? Just \$36 per year.

The Retiree Club Bylaws require that Retiree Membership dues be paid on a fiscal year basis (July through June). All dues for membership are paid in advance for one year, July 2013 through June 2014.

Make your check payable to: IBEW Local 1245 and mail to: IBEW

Local 1245, PO Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696. To aid us in properly applying your dues, please write the last four digits of your social security number on the memo line of your check. Please include your telephone number.

As a result of the huge volume of dues to be processed during this time, you may expect to receive your dues receipt and membership card near the end of August.

If you have an e-mail address and would like us to add it to your record, or if you have any questions, please e-mail Tonya Alston at tfa3@ibew1245.com or call her at 707-452-2718.

Keeping Social Security solvent

The Social Security Board of Trustees recently released its Annual Report to Congress on Social Security's long-term finances. Despite all the hype from the doom-and-gloomers, the program remains in very good shape.

According to the trustees' report, Social Security trust fund reserves are at \$2.73 trillion, and will continue to grow through 2020. Beginning in 2021, trust

funds will begin to shrink. After 2033, even when the reserves are gone, the program's on-going income will cover 77% of scheduled payments.

With only a 23% shortfall starting in 20 years, it's not too difficult to balance Social Security's finances. In May, Sen. Mark Begich of Alaska announced a plan to strengthen the program for the long haul.

Begich's Social Security Fairness Act

would lift the cap on high-income earners. Currently, income of more than \$113,700 is not subject to the payroll tax, which funds the Social Security trust fund. This cap is a huge tax giveaway to wealthy people, allowing them to pay at a lower rate than middle income and poor wage earners.

Begich says eliminating this cap and taxing all income would keep Social Security solvent for the next 75 years.

Begich's bill would also change the way cost-of-living adjustments are calculated, replacing the consumer price index (CPI) for workers with a formula commonly called CPI for the elderly (CPI-E), which would increase seniors' benefits.

He said he could not support a "chained CPI," which was included in President Obama's 2014 budget. Begich said a chained CPI hits low-income seniors and people with disabilities especially hard because it would reduce their benefit payments over time.

A chained CPI hits low-income seniors and people with disabilities especially hard because it would reduce their benefit payments over time.

Republicans have insisted on including a chained CPI in any entitlement reform legislation.

Seniors and future-seniors mounted public protests against the "chained CPI" proposal during nationwide demonstrations on July 2.

Social Security remains a highly efficient program, proof that the federal government does some things right. Operating overhead is 0.8% of total expenditures, about the same as a discount mutual fund. It's been a fraction of 1% for decades.



HUMAN CHAIN AGAINST THE CHAINED CPI



Newly retired, from page 22

Jonathon Keck
Salem, OR
9 years

Rodney Keith
Shasta, CA
29 years

John Kell
Morro Bay, CA
30 years

Daniel Kelly
Antioch, CA
40 years

Douglas Kierce
Burney, CA
34 years

Willie Kilgore
Richmond, CA
42 years

Daniel Kissick
Redding, CA
34 years

Carla Kitchen
Posey, CA
29 years

Barone Larry
Stockton, CA
41 years

Christine Lay
Sacramento, CA
36 years

Gary Le Roy
Walnut Creek, CA
39 years

Patrick Leeper
Fresno, CA
16 years

Ralph Lentz
San Jose, CA
41 years

Kyi Leong
San Francisco, CA
39 years

Henry Leung
San Francisco, CA
38 years

Patrick Lewis
Shaver Lake, CA
35 years

Richard Lohr
Fairfield, CA
33 years

Rodney Luciani
Petaluma, CA
5 years

Michael Lucibello
Petaluma, CA
26 years

Howard Lutz
Roseville, CA
27 years

Kevin Malone
Soulsbyville, CA
40 years

Linda Markiewicz
Vacaville, CA
34 years

Timothy Martin
Atascadero, CA
33 years

John Martinez
Auburn, CA
35 years

William Maynard
McKinleyville, CA
27 years

Patrick McCartney
Mokelumne Hill, CA
36 years

Lloyd McClelland
Eureka, CA
32 years

Cynthia McClurg
Anderson, CA
24 years

Scott McCoy
Placerville, CA
39 years

John McDonald
Vancouver, WA
34 years

Jack McGuire
Benicia, CA
34 years

J McKim
Atwater, CA
35 years

Larry Mick
Lakeport, CA
31 years

Edward Mitchell
Stockton, CA
37 years

Charles Mitchell
Richmond, CA
17 years

William Moore
Reno, NV
34 years

Jeffery Morris
Eureka, CA
36 years

Randal Murphy
Rodeo, CA
40 years

Linda Murphy
Eureka, CA
23 years

Wesley Nail
Arroyo Grande, CA
41 years

Cindy Nail
Arroyo Grande, CA
13 years

David Najjar
San Jose, CA
33 years

John Nelson
Elk Ridge, UT
28 years

Ira Nicks
Marysville, CA
28 years

Ira Nicks
Marysville, CA
28 years

Stephan Nikolski
Hercules, CA
29 years

Brent Nolan
Arroyo Grande, CA
35 years

Alfred Nunez
Pismo Beach, CA
36 years

Richard Nyberg
San Jose, CA
39 years

Annette Oftedal
Grass Valley, CA
24 years

Kathleen Oles
Nipomo, CA
32 years

Richard Ortiz
Campbell, CA
38 years

Richard Osborne
Bakersfield, CA
37 years

Russell Ouye
Danville, CA
28 years

Michael Palwick
Pinole, CA
39 years

Jerry Pangle
Lakeport, CA
2 years

William Parmenter
Kelseyville, CA
24 years

Thomas Parra
Georgetown, CA
33 years

Agripino Pautin
Daly City, CA
30 years

Marc Pella
Manteca, CA
32 years

Louis Pennington
Clovis, CA
23 years

Sally Perea
Hamilton City, CA
33 years

Richard Peter
Santa Rosa, CA
45 years

George Pfeffer
Gustine, CA
32 years

Jonathan Pigg
Los Banos, CA
40 years

John Pirie
Danville, CA
33 years

David Price
San Francisco, CA
19 years

Stephen Prigmore
Burney, CA
37 years

Charles Pulver
Meadow Vista, CA
32 years

Toni Rabon
Houston, TX
6 years

Anthony Rafanan
Yuba City, CA
28 years

Don Ragsdale
Prather, CA
37 years

Daniel Ramirez
Bakersfield, CA
38 years

Mark Ramirez
Corning, CA
39 years

Stephen Reinke
Carson City, NV
4 years

John Riccobuano
Yuba City, CA
47 years

Laura Ricks
Atascadero, CA
10 years

Miguel Rivera
Oakley, CA
42 years

Robert Roche
St Helena, CA
43 years

Beverlee Rodondi
Glen Ellen, CA
17 years

Jose Rodriguez
San Leandro, CA
28 years

Alfonso Rodriguez
Brentwood, CA
32 years

Gerald Rolls
Orangevale, CA
30 years

Orlando Romero
San Francisco, CA
15 years

Michael Romo
Napa, CA
43 years

Ernest Sanchez
Merced, CA
42 years

Jane Sartain
Livermore, CA
21 years

Robert Saunders
Napa, CA
35 years

Robert Schenone
So San Francisco, CA
35 years

Gene Schmaljohann
Bonney Lake, WA
24 years

Ann Sharp
Berkeley, CA
15 years

Rick Shelton
Sanger, CA
35 years

Dominick Sinatra
Bend, OR
7 years

Stephanie Singh
Clovis, CA
30 years

Marion Sisemore
Shell Beach, CA
5 years

Gary Sparhawk
Nice, CA
7 years

Charles Stanley
Rapid City, SD
11 years

Susan Stanton
Pinole, CA
39 years

Kenneth Steffen
Arroyo Grande, CA
32 years

Freddie Stokes
Bakersfield, CA
22 years

Richard Sullivan
Fresno, CA
46 years

Lawrence Susee
Sparks, NV
29 years

Robin Takeno-Carlson
Fresno, CA
34 years

Mark Taylor
Los Osos, CA
35 years

Max Tellez
Concord, CA
40 years

Michael Todd
Lake Havasu, AZ
10 years

Sandra Torres
Brentwood, CA
34 years

Terry Turner
Lodi, CA
34 years

Daniel Ungles
Placerville, CA
35 years

Rodrigo Vargas
Turlock, CA
34 years

Michael Velarde
San Francisco, CA
32 years

Joe Vellone
Burney, CA
30 years

Xavier Villegas
Carson City, NV
12 years

Richard Warren
Gridley, CA
35 years

Martin Way
Antioch, CA
31 years

Cheryl Webster
Aptos, CA
27 years

Ronald Weeks
Chatham, IL
43 years

Paul Welch
Aromas, CA
39 years

Cheri Werth
Gold River, CA
33 years

Leonard White
Galt, CA
35 years

Cindy Williams
Browns Valley, CA
34 years

Tommy Williams
Placerville, CA
49 years

Steven Williams
Kingman, AZ
1 month

Timothy Willits
Hydesville, CA
31 years

Donald Wilson
Grover Beach, CA
28 years

Vickie Wilson
Redding, CA
24 years

Yan Wong
San Francisco, CA
38 years

Rudolph Woodford
San Francisco, CA
39 years

Andre Wright
Sacramento, CA
35 years

Lonnie Wysinger
Pittsburg, CA
26 years

Kenneth Youngreen
Kneeland, CA
30 years

Cut Your Health Care Costs...

New and expanded programs from Union Plus now give working families **bigger discounts, more services and lower out-of-pocket expenses.**

- Hospital Care Grants
- Medical Bill Negotiations
- ConsumerReportsHealth.org Subscription Discounts
- Health Club Savings
- Eldercare Services

For more details, visit UnionPlus.org/Health

SAVINGS • SERVICE • SOLIDARITY

Congratulations Retirees!

We want you to **STAY CONNECTED**

to IBEW 1245.

Useful links for retirees

BLOG

Reno/Sparks IBEW 1245 retirees blog <http://renosparksbew1245retireesclub.blogspot.com/>



IBEW bowlers raise \$2450 for charity in Sacramento

By Jammi Juarez
Photos by John Storey

The Sacramento Regional Organizing Committee hosted the 2nd Annual Sacramento IBEW 1245 Charity Bowl on Saturday, April 27. We had 49 bowlers and approximately 65 in attendance. There were 1245 Members from PG&E, SMUD, Regional Transit, as well as support from our Brothers and Sisters from IBEW 340 and others from the community.

"It was a great experience and a tremendous way to bond with my IBEW 1245 brothers and sisters and I'm glad my family and I were a part of it," said Harold Blackshire Jr, an MEO in PG&E's Tower Department in Davis. Harold had an extra reason to be happy with the event--he was one of the raffle prize winners!

The beach cruiser was a popular raffle prize. The lucky winner was Brandon Gross, a PG&E Service Rep in Sacramento. The bike was donated by City Bike Works.

"I really enjoyed bowling in the IBEW Bowling tournament, it was very organized and the prizes they gave away were very expensive, not to mention the food was great too," said Tom Embry, a PG&E Operating Clerk at the West Sacramento RMC. "I am looking forward to playing in it next year, as well as the golf tournament coming up in a few months."

Sabrina Woodford, also a PG&E Operating Clerk at the West Sacramento RMC, said she "had a blast" at the bowling tournament. Her team, which included Embry as well as David Duane and Rick Nguyen, was the tournament's winning team.

"I was very lucky to have wonderful teammates to help bring home the big golden trophy! I will definitely participate again next year!" Woodford said.

Between the bowlers, the donations and the raffle sales, we raised \$2,456 to contribute to the Greater Sacramento Boys and Girls Club. The Committee is already beginning to plan next year's 3rd Annual Charity Bowl!

Jammi Juarez is a PG&E Service Rep and a member of the Sacramento Regional Organizing Committee for IBEW Local 1245.



Approximately 65 attended, with 49 competing on the lanes.



Celebrating their victory as the winning team, from left, are: Tom Embry, David Duane, Sabrina Woodford and Rick Nguyen.



Greg Larkins, Community Services Labor Liaison, AFL-CIO/United Way; came to support the event.

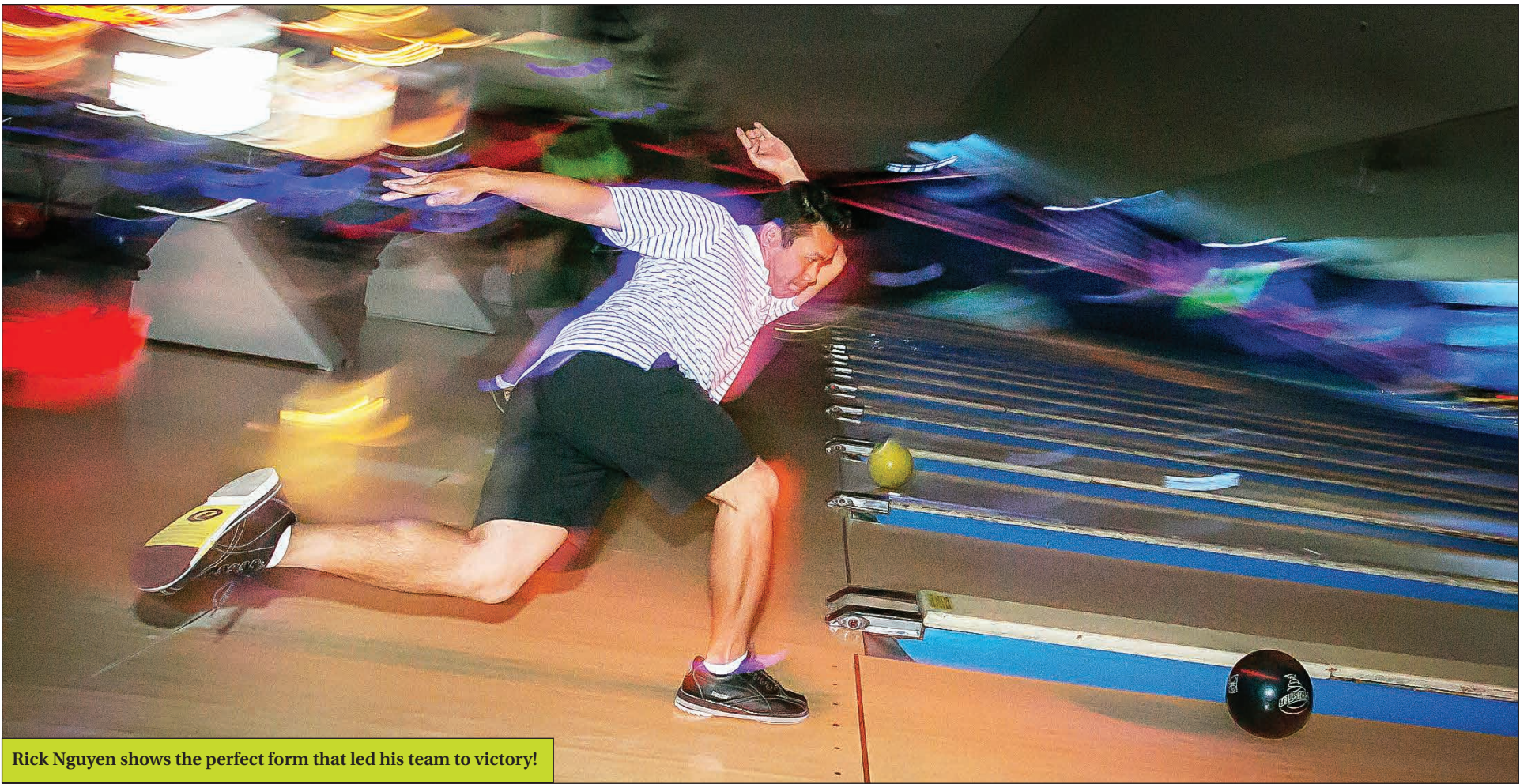


Harold Blackshire Jr. claims his raffle prize.

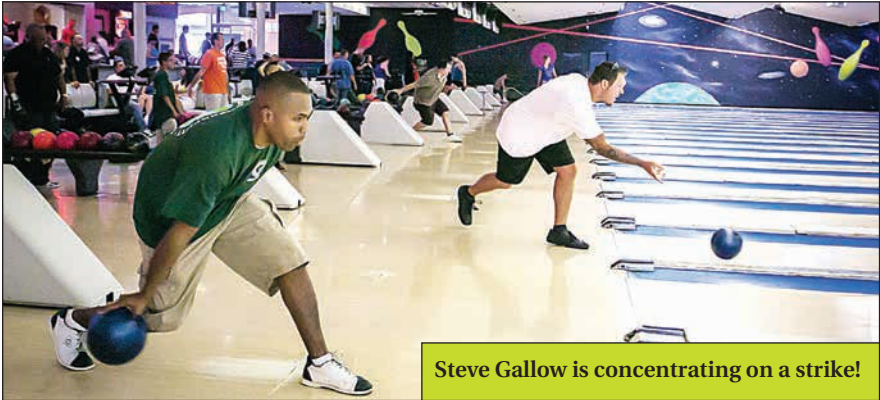


The top raffle prize.

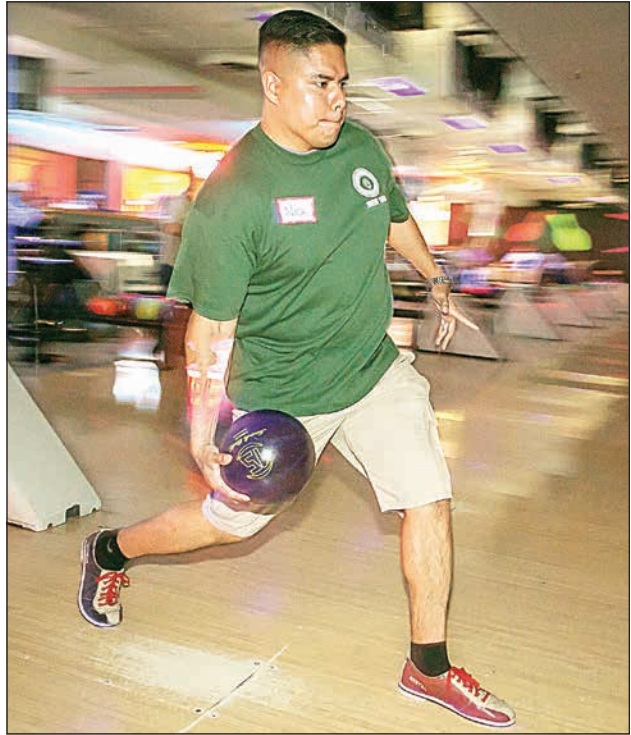




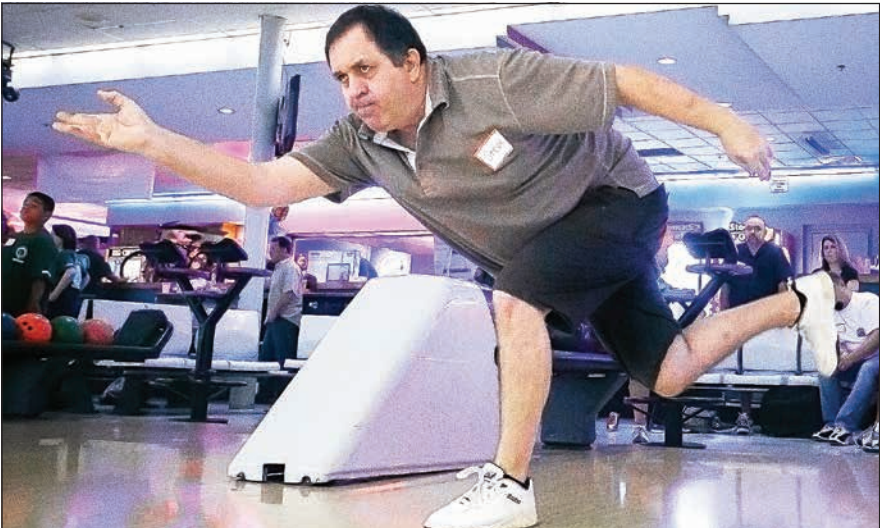
Rick Nguyen shows the perfect form that led his team to victory!



Steve Gallow is concentrating on a strike!



Sabrina Woodford receives her trophy.



Steve Marcote said: "I sure proved that you don't have to know how to bowl to have a good time with good people."



Lil, girlfriend of Greg Larkins, bowled an excellent game!



The Sacramento Regional Organizing Committee, from left: Ean Charles, Jen Gray, Steve Gallow, Eric Sunderland, Donchele Soper, Kevin Krummes and Jammi Juarez.



San Francisco

March 1, 2013



50 Years
Fifty-year member Helen Gan, middle, is congratulated by Business Rep Debbie Mazzanti, left, and Business Manager Tom Dalzell. Sadly, Gan passed away just a few weeks after this ceremony.



45 Years
Mike Sloan, right, is congratulated by Business Rep Landis Marttila



40 Years Front row, from left: Maryann Cousin, Rosaliflor Selva-Strebel, Bing Bing Kwan. Back row, from left: Debra Marrone, (Dalzell).



40 Years Front row, from left: Renato Abracosa, Clarence Chan, and Marshall McElrath. Back row, from left: John Campbell, (Dalzell).



35 Years Front row, from left: Dolores Harrington, Corazon Sabiniano; middle row, from left: Evangelin Miclat, Emma Ramos, Janis McAllister, Julie Wu, Rosavilla Pring, and Criselda Lopez. Back row, (Dalzell).



35 Years Front row, from left: Bella Chuck, and Nadine Scigliano. Back row, from left: (Dalzell), Diann Andoh, and Patty Hom.



35 Years
Front row, from left: Robert Porter, Ed Abriam, and Mike Glass. Back row, from left: Alton Halvorson, (Dalzell), and Robert Aranda Jr.

25 Years

Front row, from left: Michael Lui, (Dalzell).
Back row, from left: Cindy Jew-Szeto, Clara Morales, and Helen Jackson.





25 Years Front row, from left: Alicia Huerta, and Shelly Kamiyama. Back row, from left: (Dalzell), and Karen Osborn.



25 Years Front row, from left: Robert Nogare, and Adler Carreon. Back row, from left: John Courpet, (Dalzell).



20 Years
From left: Garrett Dempsey and Helen Lumagui.



15 Years
From left: Jeff Price and Business Manager Tom Dalzell.



10 Years
Front row, from left: Steve Carpenter and Chad Schwab. Back row, from left: Bryan Olivolo, William Wong, and (Dalzell).



5 Years
From left: Joe Castromayor and Edward Kim.

Congratulations on your service!

HONOREES

50 Years

Gan, Helen

45 Years

Schoening, Robert
Sloan, M
Thompson, T

40 Years

Abracosa, Renato
Alberico, Jay S
Bailey, Robert C
Baldrige, Willis
Banaga, Robert Y
Buckle, Patrick L
Campbell, John
Chan, Clarence
Cottonham, John
Cousin, Maryann
Dermond, Phil
Dickinson, Lawrence
Dickson, Emma J
Fassio, Kenneth W
Gee, Sandra Y
Girard, Richard A
Jones, Vincent A
Kaefer, Randall C
Kapadia, Hansa R
Kwan, Bing Bing
Kwan, Wai Han
Little, Jerry T
Lopes, Vern D
Manuchehri, Catherine
Marrone, Debra
Mcelrath, Marshall

Meek, Randolph

Mendoza, Teodoro S
Mitchell, Marcellus
Ramirez, Luis J
Romero, Orlando
Selva-Strebel, Rosaliflor M
Wayne, Thomas A
Woodford, Rudolph G

35 Years

Abriam, Edward
Andoh, Diann
Aranda Jr., Robert
Borja, Romuel A
Canada, David J
Cipro, Ronald S
Clary, Theresa
Collins, Gary M
Cortez, Steven M
Cresci, Michael A
Da Luz, Brenda
Dalagan, Ella P
Dea, Robert S
Dialogo, Saniata
Gates, Edward
Gee, Marvin G
Gin, Jack
Glass, Michael J
Grigsby, Korri A
Halvorson, Alton J
Harrington, Dolores G
Hom, Patty
Huey, Nancy
Kim, Esther
Lavezzo, Colleen M
Lindsey, George

Lopez, Criselda
Manick, Pamela A
Marttila, Landis K
Mcallister, Janice E
Mcleod, Mark E
Miclat, Evangelin
Pagan, Richard
Porter, Robert S
Pring, Rosevilla
Ramos, Emma T
Regan, Evelyn L
Reyes, Sylvia
Schenone, Robert J
Scigliano, Nadine
Shapiro, Benjamin
Siordia, Richard
Stovall, Percy
Vella, Norma A
Victor, Dave H
Walker, Keith C
Williams, Jerlean
Wong, Paul J
Wu, Alice
Wu, Julie
Young, Clifford

30 Years

Campbell, F
Del Rosario, Chito T
Guterres, David E
Hoffert, John L
Jackson, Helen S
Jew-Szeto, Cindy
Mariano, Cesar V
Marshall, Frank L
Martinez, Kevin B
Mc Quade, Glen T
Morales, Clara J
Nelson, Ken W
Norris, Linda S

Romagnoli, Karen L
Spooner, Terry L
West II, Robert D

25 Years

Almacen, Vincent R
Baur, Ben
Bennett, Dana L
Blandino Jr., Lino F
Carreon, Adler A
Churchill, Tom J
Cissell, Jason H
Courpet, John P
Garcia, Ramiro
Hagler, Lenoris
Huerta, Alicia
Nogare, Robert M
Osborn, Karen L
Ramsey, Jacquelin R
Weaver, Ryan
Zweig, John R

20 Years

Dempsey, Garrett J
Joe, Andrew D
Lumagui, Helen D
Martinez, Victoria
Muno, John A
Navarro, Alvaro
O'Sullivan Jr., John F
Sickinger, Edward R

15 Years

D Ottavio, Greg C
Galligani, Anthony R
Galligani, Robert R
Han, Hendrick F
Ledbetter, Charles
O'Driscoll, Eamon M

Paz, Luis J
Price, Jeffrey R
Trumbull, Chris C
Valdivia, Fernando

10 Years

Ayala, Julio R
Barry, James J
Bath, Stephen L
Bauer, Jeff R
Brown, Florence V
Canaya, Caroline C
Carpenter, Steven T
Denson, Thomas A
Dumalag, Rualdo P
Duquette, John P
Frank, Delvin J
Goerss, Christina M
Gutierrez, Juan R
Hackworth, Christopher D
Hayes, Ryan D
Hofland, Kasey G
Johnson, Priscilla R
Jolly, Dave B
Jonsson, Charlie A
Kamiyama, Shelley
Ku, John K
Lam, An T
Lam, Nam T
Lee, Howard K
Olivolo, Brian P
Parks, David M
Perez, Alejandro
Raquiza, Manuel E
Rubi, Ignacio D
Schwab, Chad A
Serrano, Sergio
Stoops, Ryan E
Wong, William F

5 Years

Allen, Christopher J
Ayala, Jose L
Barrios, Carlo L
Bordessa, Gioachino J
Breiz, Jareau H
Brown-Wright, Felicia
Butler, Sam R
Carriere, Rodney B
Dawson, Kenneth P
Dubois, Shemika S
Foster, Gregory A
Gray, Daniel M
Jeu, Kenny
Johnson, Christopher
Johnson, Maurice D
Kunkel, Matt A
Leung, Kwok W
Lindsey, Joseph D
Marcaida, Felicito S
Matsu, Vincent S
Mccown, Jesse M
Moreno, Adan
Parten, Michael
Pasion, Rudy
Pineda, Marcus A
Preciado, Michael A
Ramos, Agapito
Schreiner, Chris J
Smith, Roussel G
Strickland II, James R
Tasista, Louis A
Ton That, Luu D
Wright, David W
Young, Jack S

Units channel donations to wide range of causes

By Bryan Carroll

They're supporting fishing derbies, fighting cancer, honoring veterans, and Habitat for Humanity. In locations across the union's jurisdiction, IBEW units are channeling contributions from the IBEW 1245 Community Fund to a wide range of worthy causes. All the donations below have been approved by the union's Executive Board.

SMUD Fresh Pond Unit 3912, on a motion by Ray Curtis, donated \$400 from the IBEW 1245 community fund to support a local public fishing derby. The derby will be held at the Power Pine campground near Union Valley Reservoir in the Pollock Pines/Placerville area this summer. Adults and children will compete for prizes determined by the total length of the three largest fish caught.

Red Bluff Unit 3214, on a motion by Stu Neblett, donated \$250 to the Vietnam Veterans Monument Project at the cemetery in Igo, Ca. The money will help fund this centerpiece of the project, a 20 by 12 foot bullet-shaped bronze sculpture being designed by local artist and Vietnam combat veteran Gideon Carl Turner III. You can check it out at www.VVMonument.com.

Antioch Unit 2317, on a motion by Ken Meyer, donated \$500 to co-sponsor an American Cancer Society Relay for Life event in Oakley. The event, held May 18 at Freedom High School, rose over \$86,000 to fight cancer and raise awareness. The IBEW 1245 banner was proudly displayed at the event.

Mt. Wheeler Power Unit 3315 is another unit supporting the American Cancer Society Relay for Life with a \$500 donation. If you attend this July 13 event at Broadbent Park in Ely, NV, you will see the IBEW 1245 Banner! IBEW 1245's "Silver" sponsorship and more information on this event can be seen at <http://main.acsevents.org/>



Tristan and Chase Meyer stand in front of the IBEW 1245 banner at the Relay for Life event, held May 18 in Oakley, CA. They are the sons of Ken Meyer (a PG&E GC painter and 16-year IBEW member) and Tobie Meyer. Overall the event raised \$86,000 to fight cancer and raise awareness.

[site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY13GW?pg=entry&fr_id=50552](http://www.ibew1245.com/news-Local1245/Mural_4-24-13.html)

San Francisco Unit 2412 donated \$500 to help restore the historic "500 years of Resistance" mural at St. Peter's school and church at 24th and Florida in San Francisco. Read more about this restoration on the IBEW 1245 website at www.ibew1245.com/news-Local1245/Mural_4-24-13.html.

Unit 3023, Walla Walla, WA, on a proposal by member Mike Prior, donated \$500 to Habitat for Humanity. Blue Mountain Partners is raising money to purchase land and construct a family home in the Walla Walla community. Hopefully we will see pictures in the future as the structure goes up.

Diablo Canyon Unit 1220, on a motion by Jim "Hammer" Hayes, donated \$250 to the American Cancer Society for their July 27 Relay for Life to be held at Arroyo Grande High School. An IBEW 1245 banner was also requested for the event.

San Luis Obispo Unit 1215 showed its support for the 22,000 veterans that live in the county. On a motion by member Stu Weaver, the unit donated \$500 to the Vet Express Program by Ride On Transportation. This program helps transport 140 veterans a month from San Luis Obispo County to Santa Monica where they can catch transportation to the Los Angeles Veterans Hospital. The cost for the program runs about \$35,000 per year and even though it nearly had to shut down a year ago, generous donations have kept it going. Read more about Ride On and their programs at www.rideon.org/who_we_are.phtml.

Sports teams get big boost from IBEW 1245 units

IBEW 1245 units have nominated many local sports teams to receive money from the union's Community Fund. The Executive Board has approved funding for the following:

Thanks to the generosity of **Chico Unit 3417**, 100 participants on the Durham High School Track and Field and Cross Country teams are getting new uniforms. Most California school districts have cut budgets over the past 5 years and sports funding has been hit hard. Member Jason Bischel proposed the \$500 donation to the teams for the purchase of new uniforms. When you attend home meets at Durham High School next year, look for the IBEW 1245 banner. Go Trojans!

The members of **South San Joaquin Irrigation District Unit 2551** are one of several units which have recently caught baseball fever. On a motion by member (and coach)

Anthony Encalade, the unit donated \$450 to purchase uniforms (with the IBEW 1245 logo) for the 13-year old USSSA Youth Baseball's Stanislaus Fury. The newly decked-out Fury will be playing in baseball tournament events twice a month. If you are in the Turlock area, please check in on a game and root them on!

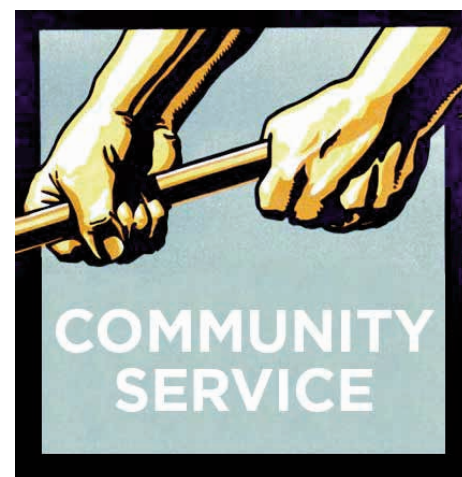
Marysville Unit 3611 lost one of their own this past spring when Bobby Lee passed away unexpectedly. The unit decided to honor Bobby by supporting one of his loves: Little League Baseball. The unit voted to support a \$500 donation from the IBEW 1245 Community Fund to the Marysville Little League. The donation will go to buy baseball equipment that had been stolen earlier in the year. In addition, the league will be posting a plaque in honor of Bobby "The King" Lee.

PG&E Sacramento-Clerical Unit 3801, on a motion by Vanessa Ricci, donated \$375 from its Community Fund to sponsor a Co-Ed Adult Softball team in Galt, CA. The IBEW 1245 name will be on the back of 15 team jerseys, with the team's name on front: Pitches Be Crazy.

Spring and summer were on the minds of members at **Dynegy Unit 1223** when they donated \$500 to support the Seaside High School Spartans baseball team on a motion by Bill Bledsoe. The money will help the team buy much needed equipment. Unit Chair Mark Scherer says the team will place an IBEW 1245 banner at the school.

City of Roseville Unit 3512 donated \$500 to sponsor the Maidu Little League in Granite Bay, CA. The donation will help with field maintenance and lighting for night games. Check out www.maidull.org for more information on this community organization.

Auburn Unit 4423, line clearance tree trimmers, donated \$500 to the



Tell us about your unit's good works!

If your unit has recently been of service to your community, let your business rep know so that we can publicize your good works! Or contact the Utility Reporter directly at 707-452-2764.

North Yuba Little League for shirts with IBEW Local 1245 on the back. This donation also allows an IBEW 1245 banner to be proudly displayed.

Sonora Unit #2517, on a request by member Thomas A. J. Puou, is donating \$500 from the IBEW 1245 Community Fund to help the Sonora High School Sports programs, specifically towards a new track and field. Go Wildcats! More information on the project can be found at www.sonorahs.k12.ca.us/news.cfm?story=15882.

Santa Maria Unit 1216 donated \$250 to help children in the community by providing an Elevate Basketball summer league team with IBEW logoed uniforms.

Templeton Unit 1217, on a motion by Jerry Camacho, donated \$500 to help supply a local men's softball team with uniforms. The team is made up entirely of electric crew personnel! As of this writing, the team's name is unknown but we do know that the uniforms will be sporting an "IBEW 1245" on their back!



Muralist Isaias Mata expresses appreciation to community supporters, including IBEW Local 1245's San Francisco unit, for assistance in restoring the "500 Years of Resistance" mural in San Francisco at a community event on April 30.

Local 1245 powers discussion on young leadership

Hundreds of delegates gathered from across the west for the annual IBEW 9th District Progress Meeting held May 15-17 in Portland, OR.

International President Ed Hill stressed the importance of being politically engaged.

"When union density was at 30% we were at the table," said Hill. He shared that private sector union membership is at an all-time low and it is important that members be concerned with all working people and should contact elected officials regularly.

"A key point for me was to make sure we don't keep the IBEW a secret, that we let people know who we are and what we do."

Rodrigo Flores

President Hill, 9th District International Vice President Mike Mowrey and several other keynote speakers emphasized the importance of identifying, recruiting and training the next generation of leaders and providing mentorship to up-and-coming leaders. They recognized IBEW 1245's work in building a strong leadership development program.

IBEW 1245 Organizers Fred Ross and Jennifer Gray participated in a panel to showcase the various ways mentorship works at 1245. They underscored the importance of creating opportunities for members of all ages to come together, tell their stories, and put theory into action. Setting and achieving concrete goals, learning by doing, being accountable to one another, celebrating victories and working in solidarity were resonant themes.

On the second day of the conference, Gray and IBEW 1245 Business Representative Lloyd Cargo were presenters at the day-long Young Worker caucus on how to develop young worker engagement at the local level. The workshop was attended by nearly 60 IBEW members from 20 locals from across the 9th District.

Gray and Cargo shared IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell's vision to integrate young workers into the life of the union at every level. Gray detailed the genesis of the program four years ago when Tom appointed young mem-

bers to negotiating committees, dispatched ten young members to the AFL-CIO "Next Up" Conference and followed up by investing resources and assigning Ross and organizer Eileen Purcell to systematically expand the union's engagement with young members.

Local 1245's young people's involvement has grown exponentially. Young members have been appointed to bargaining committees and participated in leadership trainings, seminars, and contract fights. Young members have also been appointed as shop stewards and hired as full time staff. They've also organized charity events to strengthen relations with local communities, and organized sporting events for our members.

Young members also played a key role in Local 1245's campaign to provide assistance to other unions engaged in political fights in Ohio, Florida, and Wisconsin, and provided "boots on the ground" in California's successful campaign to defeat Proposition 32 last fall.

"Our approach has been intergenerational, a mix of experience and youth," said Purcell. Today, IBEW 1245 has more than 45 member organizers," she said.

In 2012 and 2013, the California



Local 1245 member Justin Casey, a co-presenter during the plenary session, discussed some of the goals and suggestions coming from the Youth Caucus.

Labor Federation recognized IBEW 1245 for outstanding work developing young workers and for generating the highest participation in the No on Prop 32 Campaign.

In addition to members of the IBEW 1245 Executive Board and staff, eight IBEW 1245 members who have been participating in 1245's Leadership Development Program attended the conference. These emerging leaders included: Georgette Carrillo, Justin Casey, Rodrigo Flores, Rene Cruz-Martinez, Jammi Juarez, Christine Raines, Donchele Soper and Jeremiah Tompkins. For some, it was their first District Progress meeting.

"It was informative and provided tools to help bring members to unit meetings and to organize charity and family events for members in my area of Central California," said Rodrigo Flores, a Senior Distribution System Operator

at Merced Irrigation District. "A key point for me was to make sure we don't keep the IBEW a secret, that we let people know who we are and what we do."

During the plenary session, Justin Casey presented goals and suggestions that came out of the Young Worker caucus.

"The Young Worker caucus was very informative," said Casey, a Davey Tree Line Clearance Tree Trimmer. "I got to sit and talk with a group of my peers from various locals and really learned a lot. I left the workshop with a lot of great ideas."

"I believe it is important that locals come together to discuss issues, triumphs and struggles, that we learn from one another," said delegate Jammi Juarez, a PG&E Operating Clerk and 7-year member of Local 1245. "If we do not learn from our history, we are doomed to make the same mistakes."

The Local 1245 delegation to the IBEW Ninth District Progress Meeting consisted of, standing from left, Jeremiah Tompkins, Georgette Carrillo, Christine Raines, Jennifer Gray, Lloyd Cargo, Donchele Soper, Jammi Juarez, and Rene Cruz Martinez. Kneeling, from left, are Rodrigo Flores and Justin Casey.



Local 1245 members joining IBEW President Ed Hill in Portland, OR are (back row, from left) Christine Raines, Jennifer Gray, Jammi Juarez, International Vice President Mike Mowrey, Lloyd Cargo, President Hill, Jeremiah Tompkins, and Justin Casey. Front row, from left, are Rene Cruz-Martinez, Donchele Soper, Georgette Carrillo, and Rodrigo Flores.



Mike Lambert, Henkels & McCoy.



Eric Wright, PG&E, 27-year member.



Brandon King, PG&E, 26-year member.

Second Annual IBEW Nor-Cal Clay Shoot



Brian Hong, PG&E, 11-year member.

Shooting clays, helping kids

Union sportsmen and women shot down a lot of clays and lifted up a lot of kids at the Second Annual IBEW Nor-Cal Sporting Clays Shoot.

The event, held May 4 under a blue and sunny sky, was co-sponsored by IBEW Local 1245 and hosted this year by IBEW Local 180. Last year's Clay Shoot raised over \$8,000 for Boys and Girls Clubs in California, and this year's event is expected to produce similar results when the proceeds are tallied. The best part: people had fun doing it.

"It's a good way to get everybody together," said Gerry Stinson, a PG&E Electric Crew Foreman in Vacaville and 15-year IBEW member. "You get a bunch of people together, you shoot, you have food, you have beer—you can't beat that."

The Clays Shoot gave Brandon Gross, a Service Rep at PG&E, an opportunity to meet IBEW members from other employers. "It's a great way to meet new people and maybe new hunting buddies," Gross said.

Eric Wright, a PG&E Electric Crew Foreman in Oakland who hunts at a pheasant club, said he only got about half the clays he shot at. "Quail is a lot easier—a little bit bigger than clays," said Wright. But he wasn't complaining.

"It's a good thing, a great thing." If the

union sponsors a shoot again next year, he said, "I'll be here."

PG&E lineman Daniel Witte said Raahauge's Hunting Club, where the shoot was held, provided a good course with challenging clays. He's used to hunting duck, goose and big game. Clays, he said, move more.

Witte was one of eight members from the Stockton yard who traveled up to Dunnigan for the shoot. Another was Lineman Travis Glock.

"We had a blast. We've been shooting together a couple of weeks, just to get in practice," said Glock, who just got his hunting license last year. He said it was good to get out with his union brothers.

"It's a great event. There's a lot of union members who like to hunt. I will definitely be back next year."

Witte, too, is looking ahead to next year's shoot.

"We managed to pull eight people out of the Stockton Division yard and I think when (we) get back and tell 'em what a great time we had I guarantee it will be double out of our yard for next year," he said. "It was a fantastic time."



Danny Souza, City of Lodi, launches clays.



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



The winning team, from Operating Engineers Local 3.



Josh Ramos, PG&E, 5-year member.



Mike Criss, Canus, 2-year member.



Alden Anquillano, PG&E, 10-year member.



Michael Van Egmond, TID, 7 years.



David McDonald, PG&E, 1-1/2 year member.



Ofelia Cisneros, Cypress-Mandela training center.

Second Annual IBEW Nor-Cal Clay Shoot



Brotherhood.



Members from PG&E Stockton Division yard.



Waiting in suspense as the raffle tickets are drawn for the many great prizes.

Photos by John Storey



Daniel Witte, PG&E, receives his raffle prize from Dan Broadwater.



Rodger Wilson, PG&E, 7-year member.



Travis Glock, PG&E, 6-year member, wins a gun safe.



Ralph Kenyon, PG&E, 23-year member, with prize.



Seamus Donovan, IBEW Local 6, gets lucky in the raffle.



Ron Jones, PG&E, is a raffle winner.

Save the date! The next IBEW Nor-Cal Clayshoot is scheduled for April 5, 2014. Mark it on your calendar!

"Sisterhood" raises funds for fallen linemen

Local 1245 sends 10 to compete

Local 1245 members performed well in a new lineman's rodeo sponsored by the National Sisterhood United for Journeymen Linemen (NSUJL).

The event, held June 1 in Claysburg, Penn, was created by the NSUJL to raise funds for the families of linemen who have been injured or killed on the job.

IBEW 1245 sent journeyman teams from PG&E and Liberty Energy, as well as an apprentice team from Nevada Energy.

The PG&E team scored first place in the Knots and Splicing event. Nevada Energy Apprentice Lineman Blake McCoy won second place in the speed climb.

The Liberty Energy crew won third place in the hot arm change out and third place in the overall linemen evaluation.

The National Sisterhood plans to make this rodeo an annual affair.



Competing for IBEW Local 1245 were, from left, Steven Potter and Blake McCoy, NV Energy; Joel Kuntz, Liberty; Andy Sanderson, Donovan Rupp and Steve Frediani, PG&E; Nicholas Rains and Dylan Rogers, Liberty; James Raggio, PG&E. Not shown: Smiley Stahl, Liberty.

Photos by Landis Martila



Competing are Dylan Rogers (top) and Nicholas Rains of Liberty Energy.



Smiley Stahl, Liberty Energy, served as a judge.



James Raggio, PG&E, competes in the Speed Climb event.



Blake McCoy, NV Energy, competes in the Obstacle event.

Optimistic outcome of the defeat of 2012's Proposition 32

By Mimi Stange

Mimi Stange, a graduating senior at Arroyo Grande High School, is the winner of this year's Al Sandoval Competitive Scholarship. Her father is George McCrum, a PG&E Electrician and 23-year IBEW member.

The outcome of Proposition 32 would have made a big impact on my household. The authors and supporters of Prop 32 claimed it would "take big money out of politics and fix all of Sacramento's problems" calling it a Special Interest Money Act, a misleading statement made by the measure's wealthy special interest groups (the top 1%) who would have been exempt of the provisions of this Proposition. Those (of us) who opposed the measure denied the benefits, calling it deceptive, expensive and favoring big business.

The supporters of this Proposition claimed it would "rein in" campaign contributions by both union and corporations. The cold truth was that the deceptive wording in the document would have limited the voices of union members and given special exemptions to corporate special interest groups. This Proposition had been voted down twice before; in 1998 and 2005. maybe if they keep re-wording it they might someday fool the voters into believing it would benefit the public. I don't think the Union members will ever be fooled by this kind of political manipulation.

Corporate special interest groups already outspend the middle class 15 to 1, and this measure would have allowed more exemptions for rich corporations and big businesses (who don't really

need the exemptions in the first place). There would also have been a financial impact to our state, potentially exceeding \$1,000,000 dollars annually, a financial burden the taxpayers (us little guys) would be responsible for paying, as most big businesses pay a far lower tax rate than the middle class taxpayer.

Real estate developers, insurance companies and billionaire businessmen would be exempt from the provisions of Prop. 32, allowing them to financially pander to their hearts content in order to secure "their" candidate, while a union would no longer be able to contribute to candidates on behalf of its members, as Prop. 32 supporters claimed that workers are forced to contribute to politics or causes they disagree with. This is simply not true.

Current law protects workers from being forced to join a union or paying fees to unions for politics. My dad says his Union Dues are a set amount, whether there's a Union related item on the ballot, or not. The Union uses a portion of the dues paid by its member to fight for and protect the members. If Prop 32 had passed, unions would still have been able to raise money for political purposes, but they would have had to ask for voluntary donations from their members, which probably would have generated a lot less revenue, while big businesses would be exempt from this law.

Because Proposition 32 did not pass Unions still have the legal right to contribute to political campaigns, supporting politicians who support the middle



IBEW 1245 President Mike Davis, right, awarded the Sandoval Scholarship plaque to essay winner Mimi Stange. Her parents, at left, are IBEW 1245 member George McCrum and Dina McCrum.

class workers of this state. It is still legal for contractors to bid and contract for government jobs, which ensures jobs for thousands of California Union workers every year, and multi-million dollar tax loopholes and exemptions from environmental laws are still considered a big no-no for big developers, wealthy movie producers and out-of-state corporations.

If Prop 32 had passed the residents of California would have had to pay higher state taxes to pay for the \$1,000,000 cost to implement this measure. It would have disallowed Unions to contribute to political campaigns, making it more difficult for Union officials to create equal pay and opportunities for its members.

It would have caused a greater inequality between lower paid workers and fat cat businessmen. With an exemption from environmental laws, there would be a fear of big corporations abusing environmental rules, causing greater damage to our eco-system. There would be an inevitable loss of Union jobs, and the inability of Unions to contribute to the political campaigns of politicians who care more for the welfare of the average workers of this state than the profits and tax advantages of big businesses.

I'm grateful the voters of this state voted against Proposition 32. It gives me faith that the system is still working for the rights of the people.

What you should know about workers' compensation

By Stuart K. Tubis

Any job, particularly a physically demanding job, carries some inherent risk of injury. In California, injuries that arise out of the course of employment are handled through the workers' compensation system, yet most people know little or nothing about it.

The workers' compensation system is administered in part through the Department of Industrial Relations. It is intended to provide medical treatment to recover from the injury or illness, partially replace wages while recovering, and help you return to work afterward. Unfortunately, workers' compensation benefits do not include damages for pain and suffering or punitive damages as might be included in a typical personal injury lawsuit.

For accepted workers' compensation claims, all reasonable and necessary medical treatment will generally be provided by the employers' insurance company. If you are unable to work due to

the injury, you will generally be entitled to temporary disability payments. These benefits are calculated as a percentage of your average income – usually about two-thirds of normal salary.

Once your medical treatment has stabilized, you will be evaluated to see if you have any lasting, permanent disability. If so, you would likely be entitled to permanent disability payments. Permanent disability benefits are calculated based on the severity of the injury, age, occupation, etc. Most mild injuries yield permanent disability in the amount of \$10,000 to \$25,000, while more severe injuries can yield permanent disability approaching \$100,000 or beyond.

If you are unable to return to the same physically demanding job as before, it is often possible to include job retraining funds to help you get established in a new field or role. Finally, depending on circumstances, workers will often receive a lifetime right to future medical treatment for the injury as part of the case settlement.

But while these cumulative benefits can be significant, the system is not designed to provide a replacement income for the workers' remaining lifetime. Commonly workers find themselves in a difficult financial situation when they can no longer earn their former income and the financial benefits of the workers' compensation system have been exhausted. To avoid this predicament, other accommodations must be made, such as personal savings, private insurance, or government disability programs.

It is also important for workers to be

aware of the one year statute of limitations for filing a claim. In other words, if you get injured and do not report the injury or file for workers' compensation benefits within a year, your right to benefits could be lost forever. So it is important to take legal action quickly after the injury occurs.

Stuart K. Tubis is an attorney with Mastagni, Holstedt, Amick, Miller & Johnson. Mastagni specializes in public safety and utility workers and has a long history of working with members of IBEW Local 1245. For more information, visit the website at www.mastagni.com.

If you get injured and do not report the injury or file for workers' compensation benefits within a year, your right to benefits could be lost forever.



THE TOKEN BEARERS

By Mike Cottrell

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

Chapter 9

MILWAUKEE 1930. LIFTING THE LOAD FOR THE FUTURE, ONE FIGHT AT A TIME.

Fancy worked his way along the alleyway wall through the broken glass and garbage. The Milwaukee police and the power company's hired Pinkertons still patrolled the streets where the strike march had taken place during the day. He and Sky had separated in the midst of the rage of the oncoming strikebreakers and fled away from the surge only to re-group time and time again with others to go back out and clash with the cops over and over. It was worth it for more money and being recognized as people with needs in a dangerous trade. It was all so new and it had killed so many, trapping the victims in great charges of engulfing flames brought on by the ignorance of those who were employed to handle it. Mangling its victims in the long falls taken from towers and poles, leaving the disabled to fend for themselves and the dead to be buried without financial sources to convey them to their graves.

Fancy got up whistling that morning and sent the good looking away down the fire escape and patted her behind as she cussed him and took the two dollars. Her hat was left in the room and as she crossed the street, he opened the window back up and slung it to her on the ground from the second story.

"See ya' after the march darlin'. I'll pick ya' up at the same bar tonight."

"Yeah, famous last words, big spender." And she strolled off under the gray morning sky limping on a twisted high heel and putting the hat on her head. Fancy looked on in admiration of the opposite sex.

"Nothin' quite like a lady that'll come spend the night for a couple dollars and then leaves a man to his doin's during the day as not to be a burden."

He went over to the pitcher of water and poured some into the pan. He worked the soap around and lathered up and scrubbed his face well. Reaching with closed eyes to the painted nail matching the tongue and groove wall board he produced the bar towel off of it with closed eyes and thought he might have been in this town too long having retrieved the towel with such ease in the blind. The thought of pulling out soon and leaving this ratty outfit for a better place approached his conscience. But Sky Rocket wanted to stay on for a while and help them organize the brotherhood at the power company. He opened his eyes and looked hard into the foggy old mirror at his rather handsome features. He put his finger tips in the water and scooped a little of it up and sprinkled the water into the cup and repeated the procedure. He held the cup handle with one hand and with the other took the brush and started making the needed strokes it would take with the brush to produce

the lather from the shaving bar in the bottom of the cup.

He opened the razor and stroked it up and down on the leather strap. He sang:

"Shavin' cream, feel nice and clean shave every day and you'll know what I mean" bumpa bump bump bumpa bupa bupa bumpa pa pa bump

Wheeeen I was in France in the Army I fell from a tall tower

After having a terrible fit,

But luck was with that mornin

For I landed in bucket of Sh-----avin' cream feel nice and clean, shave every day and you'll know what I mean. Bumpa bump bump bum bumpa bump bump ba."

He laughed a little at his image and thought about how good the girl had been and how the two dollars was worth it all and shaved and washed his groin area to get rid of her scent and took the water over and slung it out the window and heard the paper boy on the street holler up that he was a real smart ass for doing that and Fancy said sorry and closed the window and went over and added more water and washed under his arm pits and his feet and dried off good. He went very reverently over to the closet and drew the suit out and hung it on the nail. He wore it every Saturday and Sunday whatever he was doing and he religiously had it cleaned to be ready for the next day off. Fancy got the name for dressing up every day off and looking good for the weekend.

He was glad he had not worn it last night. They would be working today as most Saturdays but today was the march for more money and recognition from the powers to be and they had all voted not to work and he knew there would be trouble, but he would wear his suit and show his brothers what a striking man should look like. He giggled and sang another verse of the song and dressed in the beautiful suit and found his nice dress socks and shoes. He cleaned the shoes off good with the wet towel and shined them a little with his new handkerchief.

Sky rocket was the reason Fancy hung around and would take the chance today. He was apprehensive about the strike. Sky told him he needed him to stick it out and be a part of the demand for better wages and conditions. Fancy wasn't sure he would want to go up against the Pinkerton's and the police if it got out of hand. Sky was ten years older and had been around when it all started in St. Louis in ninety-one. He claimed to be right there when Henry and the others met at the dance hall and formed the union. Sky saw Henry sworn in as the first President and he was with Henry on the day he died in ninety-six and made the vow to always work toward organizing the brotherhood. Sky was the one who got Fancy in and taught him the ropes and helped him come off the streets of New York out of Hell's kitchen to be in the trade and get out in the world and make a good living. Fancy would do it because Sky wanted it this way. So he buttoned his coat and looked in the mirror one last time. He went over by the bed and sat down and opened the drawer and took the bootleg Canadian whiskey out and pulled the cork and had a stiff one and stuffed the cork back in the bottle with a sure pop of the hand. He slipped the rest of the bottle back into the drawer and closed it up tight and thought of a time when a man might have a drink again, legally.

Fancy went out into the hall, turned and locked the door and placed the key in the inside breast pocket next to his heart. The train whistle blew and the hotel shook a little bit under his feet as the freighter made its way through the city in a moderated speed.

He saw Sky's car across the street and went into the café.

Sky Rocket was never impressed with the suit and thought Fancy was overbearing about his freedom to look like a politician or preacher.

Sky always wore starched Levi's and a work shirt the same pressed at and



They made it to the power company yard where they talked and strolled back and forth in front of it and the Pinkerton's arrived in their cars and horseback with the police and some shoving and pushing started and the thing turned sour.

It raged on all day with arrests and bottle and brick throwing and one man was beaten bad enough by the Pinkerton's he was taken to the hospital for treatment but died anyway that night.

made right at the cleaners. Sky sat at the table with other linemen holding briefings on the day's activities. It would be an informational picket and they would show solidarity and unity in their demand for more money and better benefits. They would return Monday to work and see if the one day walkout would send a message to the power company. If raises did not occur from this show of unity, they would move to the next step. Fancy sat down after pulling up a chair and listened to Sky's spill. He had heard this a hundred times before and it would bore him to tears as the other men listened intently, Fancy would try to maintain some sign of attention to it, but actually would be thinking of the day's end when he would spend some time at the speakeasy and pick up another nice lady.

It had been planned well by Sky and the local union business manager and the signs were made up at the union hall. The power company knew it was coming and had summoned the police and hired the Pinkerton Agency to break it up if it got out of control or before. No one was ever sure when they might start in hammering heads with the Billy clubs and shoving bodies about with the chests of horses, intimidating them to fight back so the police would have due cause to arrest the offenders. Sky went over all the possibilities with those who had never participated. He had seen it all and done it a hundred times in cities all over the eastern seaboard and the Midwest. Fancy would ask him why he kept taking the bumps and bruises. He was a legend already in the trade and didn't have to go out and get knocked around anymore. Fancy told him it was stupid. Sky would answer back—The only reason we have conditions is because we make them on the job and if that doesn't work, we have to give management a gentle nudge once and awhile. Sky would pull the token from his left front pocket and show it to Fancy pronouncing when he held it up in his fingers, "This I why damn you. You know that."

Sky would always remind everyone about the day Henry was killed on the job in ninety-six and that was all it took for him to have supporters. As soon as they all knew he was there and vowed to work for Henry's cause—the first president of the IBEW he would say. A linemen and a good one he would say emotionally and it was always heartfelt. Fancy would hand him the folded handkerchief and Sky would wipe his eyes and give it back, sometimes after blowing his nose on it and that always made Fancy wonder why Sky didn't bring his own fucking snot rag. He knew damn well he was going to get all slobber faced and stick his hand out and Fancy would fill it with his nice handkerchief so he could blow his nose and wipe his eyes and then hand it back so he could put it in his pocket and wish Sky wouldn't do that. But Fancy always handed it to him out of admiration and more importantly to Fancy, friendship.

Sky was from New Orleans and dark headed and easy going as Fancy, but his mission was more for the advancement of the working man and while Fancy believed in all that and worked hard to make those things Sky wanted on a job to happen, his mission was more toward a good time. This was just a day to pass to get there with the money it took to enjoy living. He was sorry he couldn't work today but he knew the one day 'walk out' was important, or that's what Sky said anyway. And who's going to argue with Sky Rocket, hell he was with Henry when he got killed on the job and promised to do all this shit, thought Fancy.

They gathered at the union hall down the block and met with all the others. They shook hands and had another talk and one who did not know Fancy asked another who he was because of the suit and Fancy overheard him whispering to find out and Fancy said, "The grim reaper if this don't work out." Everybody laughed but Sky and he called Fancy the most well-dressed pole climber in the world. Fancy bowed before them and received their applause.

They'd gone in unity along the street to show they would stand together to get more money for the hard labor and loss of life. To plead more consideration to safety to curtail the deaths and injuries so drastic in these times of

the industry. They made it to the power company yard where they talked and strolled back and forth in front of it and the Pinkerton's arrived in their cars and horseback with the police and some shoving and pushing started and the thing turned sour. It raged on all day with arrests and bottle and brick throwing and one man was beaten bad enough by the Pinkerton's he was taken to the hospital for treatment but died anyway that night. Others were hurt, cops, Pinkerton's and Linemen, all men, all hurt. The politicians called out the Army and shots were fired and a Lineman killed. Two dead now and many were injured. It went on until dusk and the Linemen were subdued and arrested or driven back and away.

Most of the men that had survived returned to the meeting point in horror and disbelief of what a simple peaceful movement had turned into. They began strategies for getting the arrested freed and the hurt treated. Others were still missing and Sky and Fancy were two of the missing.

Fancy slid along the wall in the alley and held his wrist. He fell on one knee and got back up and tried to clear his vision. He had a cut on the top of his head. He looked down to the last place he had seen Sky before the men on horses separated them with the Billy clubs and churning motions of the spinning horses, the riders kicking and clubbing the strikers.

"Sky, Sky Rocket where are ya' damn it?" It was a meek and almost whispering plea and then he screamed it out as loud as he could.

He heard a moan around the corner and when he got there, Sky was sitting half up and leaning against the stair landing of the hotel holding his left thigh. His Levi's cut open and the blood was gushing out.

Fancy got to him as fast as he could and took the suit coat off. It was ruined from being ripped up the back and had a large tear in the left shoulder.

Sky's eyes were slow to react and he was pale and weak.

Fancy wrapped the suit coat around the thigh and tied it tight with the sleeves.

"I gotta' get you to a doctor Sky, your losin' blood."

"Your gonna' fuck up your good suit coat on me Fancy." Sky murmured weakly and moaned in pain.

"That big baboon of a Pinkerton fucked it up already when he pulled it over my head and hit me on the crown with that Army colt."

"Your lucky he didn't shoot ya' for havin' the damn thing on."

"Yeah well I told him how important I was and that's why he didn't. Sky, look at you, beat down like a jackass that you are for startin' this kind a' shit. There's one or two dead and maybe more. It wasn't worth it Sky—"

"Maybe not today but someday it will be. I think I got some cracked ribs."

"That's good to know. I got to leave you here long enough to find some help."

"No, don't leave me. We can get er' ourselves."

"Damn Sky, we're both hurt bad. Give me the keys to your car and I'll bring it down the alley. It ain't that far away. I saw it an hour ago and it didn't even have a brick in it."

"They must not have known it was mine then."

"They woulda' burnt it to the ground if they did. I'll be right back."

"Hurry up, fore' I bleed out damn it."

Three days later they took the same route and although they were lucky in a way because the two dead had no wives or kin that they knew of, the local union took up a collection and bought the caskets and the burial plots. They hired a man with a bag pipe and he played Amazing Grace all the way to the cemetery and the police stood by ready to take action on the procession if need be. But there was no trouble and the brothers were buried.

Some stayed on and fought for eight hour days and drinking water on the trucks. They worked on for lunch breaks and over time and some moved on to work in other places to put their tickets in their boots and organize non-union linemen and two of those were Fancy and Sky.

continued in next issue

Fresno Measure G defeated

IBEW 1245 members play decisive role

How often is it, really, that you can make a difference—a real difference?

IBEW Local 1245 members Georgette Carrillo, Cruz Serna, Rey Mendoza, and Valdemar Guzman found out this spring when they played a decisive role in the defeat of Measure G in Fresno. The margin was razor thin—the “No” campaign garnered just 50.7% of the vote. But that was enough, and there’s no question that Carrillo, Serna, Mendoza and Guzman—all of them PG&E Fresno Call Center Service Reps in their 30s—helped

tip the balance.

Measure G was an attempt to contract solid waste services to Mid Valley Disposal, jeopardizing the jobs of union municipal workers. The measure was supported by Mayor Ashley Swearingin, who argued that customers would see a savings of about 17% on their trash bill—neglecting to mention that rates could be increased after the first two years of the eight-year contract.

The “No on Measure G” campaign was comprised of a relatively small number of paid staff, joined by a large group of

grass roots volunteers with the public’s interest in mind.

“Our goal is to educate the public and fellow union members about Measure G,” Carrillo and Serna reported on the IBEW 1245 website during the closing days of the campaign. If Measure G became law, they noted, “union workers would have their wages slashed by 25% and would have their benefits greatly reduced.”

In addition, Mid Valley Disposal was only guaranteeing employment to the current workers for a single year.

The IBEW 1245 members conducted precinct walks and phone banking to spread the word, collaborating with other like-minded unions. They even recruited members of their own families to assist with the campaign.

The City’s contract with Mid Valley Disposal would have allowed the company to purchase about \$50 million in city assets—including trash trucks and bins—for a “measly \$10 million,” Carrillo and Serna note. If there were a breach of contract by Mid Valley Disposal, the City would have had to rent back the same equipment that it had once owned—a lousy deal for ratepayers.

Ironically, Fresno has an award-winning residential waste program and is widely recognized as a leader in refuse collection and recycling. The existing program is self-sustaining and requires that the City not charge any more than what the true costs are, ensuring low fees to the public.

“Our participation in this campaign has allowed us to broaden our skills, so in the future we can utilize these skills when needed for IBEW 1245.” Georgette Carrillo and Cruz Serna

Measure G, if passed, would have allowed “a big company to exploit the citizens of Fresno at the expense of hard-working men and women,” and boosted the career of an anti-union politician, said Carrillo and Serna.

“During our efforts we have been fortunate to have met many trash collection workers. Each has been passionate, caring and sincere and we are confident



IBEW 1245 member Cruz Serna, in back, joins other campaigners against Measure G in Fresno.

that this same level of passion is carried over to their work,” they said.

“Our participation in this campaign has allowed us to broaden our skills, so in the future we can utilize these skills when needed for IBEW 1245,” they said, noting:

“We are stronger as a collective than as individuals, and we are extremely proud to assist other union members, as we may need them in the future.”



Business Manager Tom Dalzell with the Local 1245 team that helped defeat Measure G. From left: Jose Rey Mendoza, Cruz Serna, Dalzell, Georgette Carrillo, and Valdemar Guzman.

IBEW 1245 organizers sharpen skills in Walmart campaign

IBEW 1245 members Justin Casey (Davey Tree) and Cruz Serna (PG&E) joined a caravan of buses that converged on Bentonville, Ark. for a week of worker actions that culminated at Walmart’s annual Shareholder’s meeting on June 7.

They participated in trainings, planning sessions and actions alongside 300 Walmart strikers, organizers and volunteers from the Our Walmart Campaign. They were joined by Local 1245 staff members Jennifer Gray and Lloyd Cargo.

Ignoring a court-issued restraining order, striking employees and their supporters showed up at the shareholders’ meeting to decry low wages and call for better safety procedures for supply-chain workers.

The protest at the shareholders’ meeting was the first stage of an effort to expand organizing efforts at two Walmart stores in the Sacramento and Fresno markets. By assisting these actions, IBEW 1245 seeks to sharpen our organizing capacity while contributing to the labor movement’s on-going effort to stop the “Walmartization” of the US economy.



IBEW 1245 members aiding the OUR Walmart campaign are, in back, from left: Rene Cruz Martinez, Jose Rey Mendoza, Cruz Serna, (Business Manager Tom Dalzell), Georgette Carrillo, and Valdemar Guzman, Eric Sunderland, Justin Casey. Front row: Walmart Associate and OUR Walmart member Barbara Collins, Guadalupe Flores, Jammi Juarez, Jennifer Gray, OUR Walmart Organizer and UFCW member Organizer Eric Henkel, Former Walmart associate and OUR Walmart volunteer George Finegan. In front, Fred Ross, Jr. Not pictured: Kevin Krummes, Ean Charles and Eileen Purcell.