

Inside:



# Utility Reporter



Union Voter Guide

Pull-out section

inside



Volume 63 No.4 • Oct-Dec 2014

UNITY IS STRENGTH

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

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This Concord crew was one of many responding to dangerously damaged homes. From left: Brad Matlock, Ron Knepper, and Joe Goldstein.



Tom Dalzell  
BUSINESS MANAGER

## Challenges Ahead

Facing down tough challenges is nothing new for our union – we are, after all, the people who unionized PG&E, who put wires back together in the middle of hail storms, and who stared down top NV Energy executives to secure our retirement medical benefits. But nevertheless, we find ourselves in the midst of a very challenging time.

For starters, to remedy PG&E's role in the 2010 San Bruno fire, the California Public Utilities Commission has proposed levying a huge fine (\$1.4 billion) on the company. That would squeeze them hard and could mean less funding to support our work and improve the gas delivery system. The proposed fine plus the \$2.7 billion PG&E has invested in safety measures since 2010 (but did not get credit for with the CPUC) brings the total penalty to over \$4 billion.

PG&E didn't help matters with its inappropriate contacts with CPUC staff regarding the fine. Should the fine go through, PG&E will have to raise equity – and negotiations take on a different character when the company is under such severe financial pressure.

Fortunately, over the summer many of you voted to extend our contract with PG&E for one year so we were not forced to negotiate during the worst months of this crisis. You did the right thing, and I am hopeful that in the next few months the fine will be reduced and finalized. Our attorneys plan to argue that investing the fine in improving safety is the best course of action, and if they are successful, it could mean more work and safer working conditions for our members.

But let's not forget that PG&E is still facing federal criminal charges for San Bruno. The uncertainty of both the CPUC's fine and what could happen during a criminal case is hanging over the company like a dark cloud. Again, the breathing room we secured by extending our contract should let the storm pass so that we can negotiate from a position of strength next year.

Also top of mind are the continued attacks on the Diablo Canyon plant in San Luis Obispo County. The fact that the plant supports hundreds of jobs (including 700 of our members) and provides affordable, low-carbon energy to millions of Californians has not dissuaded opponents from trying to close

its doors. Last month, the same group that successfully lobbied for the closure of the San Onofre plant filed a petition with federal regulators asking for structural reviews of the facility. We are monitoring this situation closely and keeping all options on the table.

In California, we are also facing the growing trend of "Community Choice Aggregation," where city governments choose to purchase power themselves instead of going through a utility. This is dangerous for many reasons: first because local governments have no experience purchasing or managing power, and second because unscrupulous operators are claiming that the power they deliver is 'clean,' when it is plainly not. Local communities who fall victim to this scam end up with out-of-state fossil fuel power that is masked with unbundled RECs (Renewable Energy Certificates). And we end up losing good, local union jobs to providers in non-union states. While we were able to convince the city of San Francisco not to go this route, Community Choice Aggregation is currently being spearheaded by Marin County. We are fighting back with a campaign to get the facts out, and will keep you posted.

In Nevada, the purchase of NV Energy by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway has created a new set of troubles. Despite his public persona, Warren Buffett has authorized a ruthless negotiation style that has done real damage to other IBEW locals across the country. His purchase of the company means that our negotiators will go head to head with his. Although our contracts aren't up for a few years, we proactively organized a Council of all IBEW locals with members at Berkshire Hathaway. We are sharing information and strategizing, and plan to support each other as each local heads to the table.

In addition to these specific challenges, we are also operating in a difficult political climate, with many hostile, anti-worker, anti-union city councils and animosity for public workers and pensions reaching a boiling point. So how to respond?

During lunch one day in early September I ate at my desk and spent an

hour reading a collection of columns written by Ron Weakley between 1951 and 1971. The challenges Local 1245 faced in its first 20 years were very different than what we face now, but the approach that Weakley and other leaders took 60 years ago rings true today.

First, they took no prisoners – they had an absolute determination to advance the interests of our members. Second, they believed in a commitment to unity within the union. Together we are so much stronger than we are as individuals – something that is especially important to keep in mind when faced with a challenge. Third, they thought outside the box, got creative in their campaigns and strategy and kept every option open. Fourth, they used every resource available, including their personal relationships, legal, regulatory and media strategies and more. And fifth, and most importantly, they drew on the strength and wisdom of our members to move the union forward.

This is how we will meet the challenges of today. We have the best contracts in the western United States. We will keep it that way.

## Unit meeting changes

Recent changes to the unit meeting schedule:

**Unit 3716, Napa**, effective immediately, has changed its meeting time to 4 p.m. and has changed its location to Fillipi's Pizza Grotto located at 645 1st Street in Napa. Meeting date will remain the first Thursday of the month. The unit's new chair is Joe Stockel.

*J.V. Macon, Business Rep*

**Unit 1110, Fresno**, has been reestablished by the IBEW 1245 Executive Board. Unit meetings,

effective immediately, will be on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm at Round Table Pizza, 5763 N. 1st Street, Fresno, CA.

*Rey Mendoza*

**Unit 3812, Vacaville**, has moved its meeting location to Pietro's #2, 679 Merchant St., Vacaville, CA. The meetings are still on the third Tuesday of the month, starting at 4:00 pm.

*Lloyd Cargo, IBEW 1245 Business Rep*

*The complete IBEW 1245 unit schedule for 2014 can be found at [www.ibew1245.com/unit\\_meetings.html](http://www.ibew1245.com/unit_meetings.html).*

## APPOINTMENTS

### BORDEN LIGHTING

2014 Bargaining Committee  
Robert Sharp, Sinh Truong

### EATON COOPER LIGHTING

2014 Bargaining Committee  
Fred Linder, Norman O'Brien  
Darcelle Sattler

### MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

2014 Bargaining Committee  
Frederic Albertini, Stephen Carlson  
Kurt Celli, Michael Gomes  
Bradley Stapleton, Travis Weese

### IBEW 1245

Control The Pressure Committee  
Keith Hopp  
Hold The Pull Committee  
Fred Aboud

### CONFERENCES

#### Inter-Union Gas Conference

Mike Adayan, Mark Bailey  
Mitch Bryans, Joe Joaquim  
Steve Lange, Lisa Long-Arkoh  
Marty Marshall, Margie Pimentel  
Mike Scafani, Steve Segale  
Jack South, Richard Trussell  
Adam Weber

#### IBEW Women's Conference

Donna Ambeau, Elisa Arteaga  
Lauren Bartlett, Michelle Benuzzi  
Amber Cordeiro, Marie Fitting  
Carrie Grace, Teresa Hernandez  
Keri Hughes, Logan Jonas  
Lori Mobley, Rachel Ramirez-Hill  
Kristen Rasmussen, Elane Robbins  
Elizabeth Rounds, Donchele Soper  
Anna Bayless-Martinez  
Cecelia De La Torre, Chris Habecker  
Dorothy Fortier

#### AFL-CIO/APALA Organizing Institute

Ivan Pereda

## CALENDAR

**Oct 4** Soccer tournament and cook-off, Fairfield

**Oct 4** Retirement Planning Seminar, Santa Rosa

**Oct 4** Retirement Planning Seminar, Eureka

**Oct 11** 27th Annual Golf Tournament, Vacaville

**Oct 14** Voter Registration Deadline in Nevada

**Oct 15** 31st Annual International Lineman's Rodeo & Expo, Bonner Springs KS

**Oct 20** Voter Registration Deadline in California

**Oct 25** Advisory Council, Vacaville

**Nov 4** Election Day in California and Nevada



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Our phone number is (707) 452-2700.



Campaigning for a union at the Olam food plant are IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward Nilda Garcia, her daughter Tatyana Cortes, Teamsters Eddie Rodriguez and Luis Flores, Sylvia Rodriguez, and IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward Miguel Pagan.

## Olam drive: learning experience

IBEW 1245 organizers recently assisted food processing workers fighting for union recognition at the Olam spice and vegetable plant that employs over 250 workers in Firebough, CA.

Although the organizing drive did not garner enough votes for victory, the IBEW organizing stewards said it was a great learning experience and helped prepare them for future campaigns.

"We are constantly learning the importance of solidarity and reminded how important we are to each other," said Organizing Steward P.J. Saenz. "Two of our members had their first experience of working with another union on

this campaign and are ready to do it again!"

The mostly-migrant workers at Olam were seeking to join Teamsters Local 890. IBEW 1245 responded to their call for help by dispatching four bi-lingual organizing stewards to assist. The IBEW "Olam Solidarity Team" consisted of Nilda Garcia, Carl Olguin, and Miguel Pagan, along with Saenz.

During the campaign, the IBEW team spoke with workers outside of the Olam facility and also made visits to workers' homes. Saenz said the Olam campaign helped teach the organizers "what it is to be a part of the labor movement and not just a dues paying member."

## Salkauskas hired as 1245 rep

Casey Salkauskas has been hired as an IBEW 1245 Business Representative to represent members in PG&E's De Anza Division, Central Coast Division, and San Jose Division (except the Call Center).

Salkauskas, a 14-year IBEW member, got his start in Ann Arbor, MI as an apprentice wireman. He first came to California in 2009 to work for Canus and ended up hiring into PG&E in 2011 in substation maintenance.



Casey Salkauskas

Salkauskas quickly immersed himself

in IBEW 1245's organizing activities. In 2012 he worked on the successful campaign to elect Leticia Perez to the Bakersfield Board of Supervisors. In 2013 he spent nearly three weeks assisting the IBEW's successful organizing campaign at the Greenlee tool plant in Illinois. He called that experience "one of the most moving and emotional" tasks he had ever undertaken. Earlier this year he was inducted into the first class of IBEW 1245 organizing stewards.

Salkauskas is also a founding member of the IBEW 1245 Veterans Group, having served in the US Navy from 1991-1999.

Welcome aboard, Brother Salkauskas!

## Mendoza stands in as 1245 rep

Rey Mendoza has been serving as IBEW 1245 business representative during the leave of Graciela Clark, whose assignment covers PG&E's Fresno Call Center, Stockton Credit and Records center, and Fresno RMC-Clerical.

As an organizing steward Brother Mendoza has served the union on a number of fronts. He was active in IBEW 1245 campaigns to defeat Measure G in Fresno, to support Wal-Mart workers, and to defeat California Proposition 32. He was also a member of the Fresno area organizing team that put together the union-sponsored Charity Bowl that raised \$1,003 for a charitable organiza-

tion assisting individuals exposed to family violence.

He was also appointed as a member of the General Bargaining Committee for PG&E Clerical negotiations, which were to begin this year but will now begin in 2015 due to the one-year extension of the current labor agreements at PG&E. Mendoza can be reached at 559-804-5240.

Thanks for your assistance, Brother Mendoza!



Rey Mendoza

## IBEW 1245 members at Trayer approve new agreement

IBEW 1245 manufacturing members employed at Trayer Engineering Corp in San Francisco ratified a new agreement on June 16. The agreement provides workers at Trayer with a guaranteed 2% increase in base pay effective June 30, 2014, another 2% increase in base pay by June 30, 2015 and a \$500 lump sum payment in their next paycheck following ratification of the agreement.

The new agreement improves the health care plan at Trayer by providing the workers with a new PPO option that will increase flexibility and choice of health care providers. The Kaiser HMO

plan option will remain the same. Additionally, the agreement includes a one-time increase in contributions to the Union Retirement Plan in the amount of \$0.25 per employee per regular hour of work.

Trayer is one of the ten manufacturing employers that IBEW 1245 picked up when the local merged with IBEW 2131 earlier this year. Bargaining on behalf of the Trayer workers were IBEW 1245 Assistant Business Manager Ray Thomas, Business Rep Cruz Serna, IBEW 2131 Business Manager Jack Floyd and Shop Steward Paul Woffard.

More manufacturing news & photos, page 12.

## IBEW 1245 recognized for outstanding solidarity efforts

*"We don't do it for the recognition. We do it because it's the right thing to do."*

IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell uses this phrase often when describing why Local 1245 is always ready and willing to provide volunteers and member-organizers to assist other unions and campaigns in need. But despite the fact that "we don't do it for the recognition," IBEW 1245 has been recognized twice in the last two weeks for its outstanding commitment to helping other unions and locals win tough battles, no matter where those battles are.

Local 1245 was recognized as a "Henry Miller Local" at the recent IBEW 9th District meeting – a title bestowed on IBEW locals that go above and beyond to support the organizing efforts of other locals. Local 1245 was commended for sending members to other locales to work on tough union campaigns, particularly last year's organizing fight at Greenlee, where Local 1245 volunteers helped to propel the workers there to victory.

At the California Labor Federation's 2014 Biennial Convention, Local 1245 received the award for "Solidarity in Labor's Campaigns" in the state of California. Earlier this year, Local 1245 released more than a dozen organizing stewards to work on some of California Labor's most important political and organizing campaigns on the year, including Tim Sbranti for Assembly, Connie Leyva for Senate and the organizing campaign at Taylor Farms.

"We found that there's a burning hunger within our membership to do something, to belong to something, and to be better than we have been," Dalzell said, crediting Local 1245 member-activists and volunteers for their hard work while accepting the award from the Labor Federation. "Our members have answered the call.... Wherever there's a [union] fight, that's where we're going."



The delegation from IBEW 1245 joins Business Manager Tom Dalzell to accept the solidarity award at the California Labor Biennial Convention

# PG&E gas pact ratified

**G**as workers at PG&E ratified a landmark letter agreement that revamps their lines of progression and creates 11 new job classifications and a wealth of new opportunities for them to move their careers forward.

Letter Agreement 14-35 was ratified 245-209 in a mail-ballot vote tabulated on Sept. 12 at IBEW's Weakley Hall in Vacaville. Six ballots were void.

The agreement, more than two years in the making, was a joint response by IBEW and PG&E to updated technology,

new regulations and modernized equipment that have completely transformed the face of the gas industry. The agreement contains benefits for both the workers and the company.

If all members take advantage of this agreement the total increase in "straight time" wages will be nearly \$1.6 million per year.

The agreement establishes an oversight committee to hammer out any issues that arise and to ensure that the transition to the new Lines of Progression goes smoothly. The agreement also gives PG&E and IBEW 1245 the opportunity to in-source some types of work that have been contracted out in the past, including compliance and traffic control.



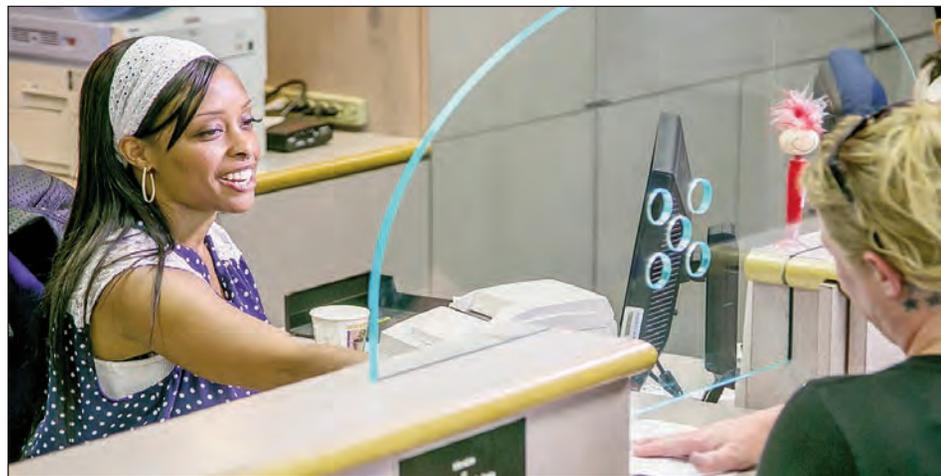
## CSR training at PG&E

**A** new letter agreement between IBEW 1245 and PG&E establishes a joint oversight committee to help implement the new Customer Service Representative training program. The training program includes tests and other "knowledge retention" checks throughout the course of training. Upon

completion of the training the CSR trainees will spend up to 10 days "nesting" with a Senior Service Representative while on the floor handling calls.

Access the Letter Agreement in full on IBEW 1245 website at [www.ibew1245.com/files/PGE-docs/LA-14-32-PGE.pdf](http://www.ibew1245.com/files/PGE-docs/LA-14-32-PGE.pdf)

## PG&E Concord Service Center



Service Representative Tatiana Gallon helps a customer at the PG&E front counter in Concord.

Service Representative Samocki Howard



Service Representative Ayriana Lambert



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# Lineman Appreciation Day celebrates heroes

by Rebecca Band

**W**ithout them, we'd be sitting in the dark, freezing cold or unbearably hot. We wouldn't be able to charge our cell phones, make our morning coffee, use our computers or watch our favorite sporting event on TV. When we're safe in our homes amidst a big storm, they're braving the weather to do their work. And when there's an electrical emergency, they are the first responders who risk their own lives to serve our communities.

They are the lineworkers who power America, and IBEW 1245 believes these dedicated and hard-working men and women deserve a day of recognition that they can truly call their own.

Earlier this year, the IBEW 1245 Executive Board designated July 10 as the date that the union officially recognizes as Lineman Recognition Day. July 10 holds special meaning for all union linemen, because it was on that date in 1896 that IBEW founder Henry Miller lost his life when he was electrocuted and fell while working on power lines in Washington DC.

In those days, half of all linemen died on the job, which is what prompted Miller to start the IBEW, to make linework safer, better and more reliable for the workers and the communities they serve. His legacy is what inspired the union to choose July 10 — the anniversary of Miller's fatal accident — as the day to commemorate linemen and the challenging and dangerous jobs they do every day.

"These men and women are working at heights, with high voltages and often in bad weather to power the areas they live and work in," said IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. "It's tough work, and we're proud of the critical role they play."

The union encouraged all lineworker employers to mark the occasion by expressing their appreciation for their own linemen. PG&E reports that they held Lineman Day celebrations at 54 locations on July 10, where they recognized and thanked their 1,500 lineworkers for providing safe and reliable power to hundreds of communities. The company gave all the linemen baseball caps and a copy of the 1934 novel "Slim," about the early days of electric line workers.

"The job of a lineman is absolutely essential, both to California's economy and our way of life," PG&E's Executive Vice President of Electric Operations, Geisha Williams, said in a press release. "It's a job that can be quite unpredictable and — as a result — requires a unique combination of strength, coordination and problem solving in order to be successful. PG&E is proud to partner with the International Brotherhood of Electric Workers Local 1245 to celebrate everything these men and women do for our customers."

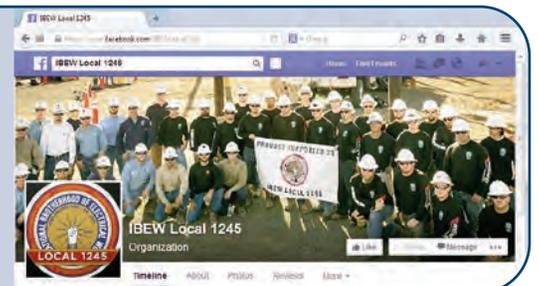
The Sacramento Municipal Utility District marked the occasion by sending a thank-you note to their linemen to express their appreciation. "To our crews: Thank you for your sacrifices and hard work under difficult conditions. Thank you for keeping the lights on in our community. Thank you for making us all look good," the note read.

Since 2012, there have been several efforts to honor linemen with a "national day." An association with strong ties to management at non-union utilities in the south has been promoting April 18 as "National Journeyman Linemen Day." In response, the IBEW teamed up in 2014 with the Edison Electric Institute to celebrate March 31 as National Lineman Appreciation Day. Congressional resolutions have been introduced in support of both dates. With support from IBEW 1245 and IBEW 47 in southern California, Rep. Linda Sanchez recently introduced HR 516 in the US Congress to recognize July 10 as National Journeyman Lineman Day. Additionally, the California State Assembly recently designated July 10th as Journeyman Linemen Recognition Day in California.



All line workers at PG&E received these commemorative baseball caps in honor of Lineman Appreciation Day. Photo via PG&E's Facebook page.

Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/IBEWLocal1245](http://www.facebook.com/IBEWLocal1245)



# “The Law Means Something” IBEW Wins Back Pay for Workers at WAPA

When the federal government decided not to pay IBEW 1245 members at Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) the wages they've negotiated and earned, the union pushed back. After a lengthy arbitration, the union has succeeded in winning back pay for the workers at WAPA.

The IBEW has represented electric transmission workers employed by the federal government for decades. In 1977, when the Department of Energy was established under President Carter, these IBEW GCC1 members were transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) with special bargaining rights established by Congress (Section 704 of Public Law 95-454).

IBEW has negotiated many contracts with WAPA over the years, but even since the economic downturn began four years ago, the federal government has consistently refused to honor the IBEW's negotiated wage increases, citing policy issues like sequestration, federal wage freezes and the government shutdown as justification to not pay these workers the wages that are due to them.

IBEW took this issue to an arbitrator earlier this year to get back the wages that members at WAPA had lost. The arbitrator listened to the facts and reviewed all documentation and notes concerning negotiations and history. In the end, the arbitrator upheld the law which has been in effect since 1978, and ruled in the union's favor of back pay retroactive to October 2013 for all negotiated wages for GCC1. This ruling sets an important precedent; an unfavorable decision by the arbitrator in this case would have had negative impacts on all unions that bargain with the federal government.



Sam Glero

“During the period of time that the federal government arbitrarily decided not to honor our negotiated agreement, the morale of our members at WAPA was very low. The trust that had been established with management was tarnished, if not broken,” said IBEW 1245 Business Rep Sam Glero, who represents workers at WAPA. “The arbitrator used a lot of common sense by stating in his decision and ruling that ‘a hand shake agreement has value and means something.’ Of course, the law means something as well.”

WAPA was very low. The trust that had been established with management was tarnished, if not broken,” said IBEW 1245 Business Rep Sam Glero, who represents workers at WAPA. “The arbitrator used a lot of common sense by stating in his decision and ruling that ‘a hand shake agreement has value and means something.’ Of course, the law means something as well.”



## Silicon Valley Power

IBEW 1245 members employed at Silicon Valley Power voted to approve the City of Santa Clara's final offer in late May, with 55% in favor. The agreement includes:

- A stipend (lump sum) payment for all Unit 3 IBEW employees of 2.5% in 2014
- 1.25% paid as soon as ratification occurs and 1.25% paid during the first pay period in July
- 2% total compensation increase in 2015 with the extra 0.5% pay in the form of a stipend



Hunter Stern

- 1.25% wage increase for those classifications receiving rubber glove premium (along with a change in wage structure for these classifications which further increases the total compensation received)
- Four additional holidays for calendar year 2014 and two for 2015
- Positive changes to the in-lieu meals and overtime language
- A six-month pilot program for straight nine-hour days.

There was some confusion at first on exactly when the wage increases for rubber glove premium pay in the year 2014 should occur and what it should cover. Based on the language of the City's proposal, the IBEW bargaining committee – Dan Ryker, Dawid Coetzee, Chuck Hayden, Steve Popiel and John Sanders – believed it should have been wages for all hours worked, including overtime hours. Despite initial resistance, the City Council approved the OT as well in early June.

A subcommittee of the IBEW Bargaining Committee also met with the City in June to work through issues concerning the new pilot program.

## AC Transit pact boosts wages

On June 12, IBEW 1245 members at AC Transit ratified a Tentative Agreement by a vote of 19-1, which was later unanimously approved by the AC Transit District Board of Directors at its June 25 board meeting.

The newly approved Collective Bargaining Agreement provides for a three-year term with a wage increase of 3.5% retroactive to March 2, 2014, and additional wage increases of 3% effective Jan. 4, 2015 and Jan. 3, 2016. In addition to the wage increase, members will receive a signing bonus of \$750 and annual attendance bonuses of \$750 if they have twelve (12) or fewer absences in each subsequent fiscal year.

Additionally, the IBEW 1245 bargaining committee succeeded in negotiating

- improved language for the 5% and 10% mid-shift and late-shift differentials
- improved vacation language guaranteeing a minimum number of vacation slots

- improved layoff and call-back language
- improved transparency in the bidding process
- a \$400 annual clothing voucher, and
- transition language from the Service Worker position to the Senior Electronic Technician Apprenticeship program.

IBEW and the District also agreed to a 2nd Tier Pension plan equivalent to PE-PRA, with a “me too” clause for more favorable terms, should AC Transit agree to anything more favorable with any other employee group.

The District and IBEW 1245, with the assistance of State Mediation, reached the Tentative Agreement on June 4 during the third mediated bargaining session. The IBEW negotiating committee consisted of Shop Stewards Dale Brewer, Kevin Auer and John Seeto, along with Business Representative Al Fortier.

## IBEW 1245 members at City of Lodi approve new agreement

After several months of negotiations with the City of Lodi over a successor MOU, the IBEW Local 1245 Bargaining Committee reached a tentative agreement in April. The tentative agreement was approved by the membership and received final City Council approval on June 18.

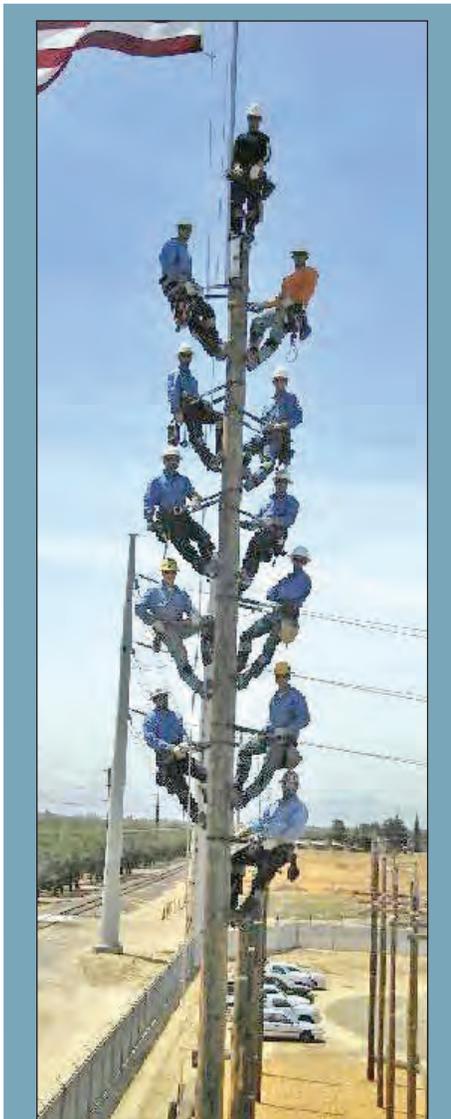
The agreement includes an increase to paid stand-by hours for Operators from two hours to three hours on work days, from two hours to three hours on non-work days, and from four hours to six hours on holidays. Employees eligible to receive bilingual pay will be increased to \$150 per month. Rubber Glove premium pay will be increased to 20% with all non-rubber glove classes receiving lump sum amounts of \$2,300.



Charley Souders

Boot allowance will increase to \$500 for lineman and \$200 for all other classifications. Meal allowances will be increased to \$25.

The term of the agreement is three and a half years with a term end date of Dec. 31, 2017. Negotiating for IBEW Local 1245 were John Vander Jack, Rod Brown and Jeff Norwood, along with Business Representatives Charley Souders and Sam Glero.



Congratulations to the eight IBEW 1245 members who recently graduated from the Turlock Irrigation District 10-day climbing school (from top down): David Word, Kirk Spinelli, Anthony Louis, Elliott Fidalgo, Carlos Padilla, Jaime Rodriguez, Wayne Smith and Jedd Caddy (also pictured are trainers Dustin Krieger, Anthony Ormonde, Raphael Battig and Dennis Mattos)



Members of the AC Transit negotiating committee (left to right) John Seeto, Kevin Auer and Dale Brewer as they reviewed proposals and prepared for bargaining.



Ross Leone, left, works from the bucket and Toak Scarlett works from the pole as the crew isolates the old transformer for replacement.



The crew mounts the equipment arm, in preparation for the transformer upgrade. Toak Scarlett is on the pole, while Ross Leone and Kyle Hermansen (behind the pole) work from the bucket.

# The Extra Mile

Crews focus on fire hazards during drought

Photos by John Storey

“Our job today is to replace this old transformer.” Liberty Utilities Foreman Jon McCue points up the hill to a pole near a house in a deeply wooded area off the west shore of Lake Tahoe.

The insulation has worn off the leads, and even though the transformer is still working the crew will replace the whole thing.

“If that transformer fails you’ve got a blown cut-out and anything dry underneath could possibly start a fire,” says McCue.

In drought-stricken California, fire is the last thing you want. In fact, Liberty is going the extra mile in trying to identify potential flashpoints.

“Every single pole in the system is being inspected,” McCue says. After they’re done replacing this transformer, his crew will spend the rest of the day inspecting one of Liberty’s circuits “for any possible fire hazards.”

The primary will stay energized during the transformer change-out, but everything they are working on will be de-energized and anything that is hot will be covered up. That’s standard procedure, and no one’s looking to take any shortcuts.

“Rushing, you generally end up screwing something up and taking lon-



Jon McCue, an 8 year IBEW member.



Ross Leone, a 7-year member

## Liberty Utilities



Toak Scarlett begins his climb, with Lake Tahoe in the background.

ger,” says McCue, who is a Safety Steward with the union’s Hold the Pull peer safety initiative.

On McCue’s crew for the transformer change-out are Linemen Ross Leone, Toak Scarlett and Kyle Hermansen. It’s a tight crew. They carpool to and from Reno every day, and their wives and kids are close, too. The most recent addition to this extended family of union brothers arrived on July 14, with the birth of Hermansen’s first child, Braxton.



Kyle Hermansen, in the bucket, and Toak Scarlett connect the transformer leads to the cutouts.



Kyle Hermansen, in the bucket, and Toak Scarlett prepare wire to reconnect a service drop.



Toak Scarlett, 7 years  
Utility Reporter



Kyle Hermansen, 1 year

## Good impression

When Liberty Utilities acquired NV Energy’s California service territory three years ago, many IBEW 1245 members working in the Tahoe area opted to give the new employer a try.

So far Liberty is making a good impression.

“We’re getting new foreman trucks, a new bucket truck. It seems like they care,” says Lineman Toak Scarlett, who was working for NV Energy in the Reno area at the time of the sale but decided to apply for a job with Liberty soon afterward. He said the company’s attitude seems to be, “What does it take to work safely, what do you need?”

“There’s growing pains with any new company, but we’re pretty happy,” agrees Foreman Jon McCue. “They keep good relations as far as our union representation, they’re very positive.”

Tree Trimmer Safety Summit

Keeping each other safe

Trimming trees around energized power lines can kill IBEW 1245 members. And sometimes it does.

That was the unvarnished truth confronted by Line Clearance Tree Trimmers attending a Safety Summit in July at Weakley Hall in Vacaville. It was the second annual meeting of the peer-to-peer safety group known as “Keep the Clearance,” which promotes safety awareness on the job through a system of safety stewards.

Keep the Clearance is “a network, an advocacy, a way to help each other,” said Business Representative Rich Lane. Its mission is straight-forward: stop serious accidents and fatalities on the job.

“This work has dangers every moment and if you lose your concentration bad things can and do happen,” said Business Manager Tom Dalzell in a new video screened at the summit.

“In the last 11 years we’ve had four fatalities in our tree trimming membership and that’s four too many. With this program we are trying to create a culture of safety in our membership where those accidents will not happen,” Dalzell said.

The members attending the summit discussed some of the physical hazards they confront on the job.

“The revolutions on that saw are just as fast as electricity passing through the lines,” noted John Simms of Davey Tree.

“Your rope breaks and you could be a hundred feet up in the tree and that’s it, there’s nothing to catch you on the way down,” said Utility Tree Foreman Ray Banfill, who appeared in the video and also served as moderator for the summit. “You’re running a chainsaw inappropriately and you could get cut and you can bleed out in just a matter of minutes.”

Business Rep Carl Lamers reminded members about an incident in which “a chunk was cut loose, bounced around the tree and hit a guy on the head,” killing him. The member was only 23 years old, with a young wife, a child, and another kid on the way. “That tree put him in the ground,” Lamers said.

John Hursh was one of several members who cautioned against taking shortcuts.

“Don’t take the easy ones. Don’t take the shortcuts. Every cut you do—above the wire or below the wire—is important,” said Hursh, who works for Davey Tree.

Pressure

The temptation to take shortcuts is usually the result of pressure from management to increase production, said Ken Cook of Davey Tree. He was certainly not alone in this opinion.

“We’re all feeling the pressure of pro-

duction,” said Banfill.

This theme was also heard in the video, where Juan Cervantes of Trees Inc. noted: “People take shortcuts to make the work go fast, and that’s when accidents happen.”

With pressure a fact of life in the industry, the Keep the Clearance initiative tries to focus on what a tree trimmer can do to keep himself and his fellow tree trimmers safe despite the pressure.

“We tell our safety stewards and everybody else on the job, be productive but we have to be safe,” said former tree trimmer Justin Casey, appearing in the video. “You can’t cut corners and try to get that extra tree, that extra tree, because even if you get 50 trees in a day they’re going to ask, ‘Why didn’t you get 51?’ ”

Lane said the safety stewards had a key role to play in communicating this message.

“You need to translate this message to the people we’re working with. We’re here to remind them that they shouldn’t yield to pressure.”

Discipline

IBEW 1245 has taken a firm position that punishing people for safety violations is largely ineffective.

“If discipline is your go-to method for dealing with safety, you are never going to get a safer workplace,” said Business Manager Tom Dalzell.

“If people are afraid of being disciplined for talking about a near hit, a near miss, a close call, they won’t report it. And if they don’t report it we’ll never

continued on page 11

Convención de Seguridad para Podadores de Árboles  
Mantenerse Mutuamente Seguros

Podar árboles cerca de las líneas eléctricas energizadas puede ser fatal para los miembros del IBEW 1245. Y efectivamente, a veces resulta ser fatal.

Esta absoluta verdad fue presentada ante los podadores de árboles para el despeje de líneas durante la Convención de Seguridad que se llevó a cabo en Weakley Hall en Vacaville en julio. Esta fue la segunda convención anual del grupo de seguridad entre iguales “Mantenga la distancia”, el cual promueve la concientización sobre el tema de seguridad en el trabajo a través de un sistema de delegados de seguridad.

“Mantenga la distancia” es “una red de apoyo, una forma de ayudarse el uno al otro”, dijo Rich Lane, Representante de Negocios. Su misión se puede resumir de una manera clara y directa: evitar accidentes graves y muertes en el trabajo.

“Este trabajo es peligroso en todo momento y si pierde la concentración puede suceder algo grave, y sucederá,” dijo Tom Dalzell, Gerente de Negocios en un video presentado durante la convención.

“En los últimos 11 años hemos tenido cuatro muertes entre nuestros miembros podadores de árboles, y son demasiadas. El objetivo de este programa es crear una cultura de seguridad entre nuestros miembros para que estos accidentes no sucedan,” dijo Dalzell.

Los miembros que participaron en la convención discutieron sobre los diferentes peligros que enfrentan en el trabajo.

“Las revoluciones de la sierra eléctrica son tan rápidas como la electricidad que se transmite a través de las líneas,” comentó John Simms de Davey Tree.

“Es posible que la cuerda se rompa cuando uno está a 30 metros de altura en el árbol y no hay nada que lo proteja a uno de la caída,” dijo Ray Banfill, capataz de Utility Tree, quien participó en el video y también fue uno de los moderadores en la convención. “Si está operando la sierra incorrectamente, se puede cortar y desangrar en cuestión de minutos.”

Carl Lamers, Representante de Negocios, le recordó a los miembros un incidente donde “un trozo de árbol cor-

continúa en la página 11



Jaime Garcia, Davey Tree, speaks up in a break-out group.

Jaime Garcia, Davey Tree, durante una sesión de grupo de trabajo.



Line clearance tree trimmers at the Safety Summit in Vacaville. Los podadores de árboles para el despeje de líneas durante la Convención de Seguridad en Vacaville.

## Davey pact ratified

**Davey Tree Surgery:** We met with Davey Tree on Aug. 27 in Livermore and reached a tentative agreement on the contract with City of Santa Clara. On Sept. 4 the agreement was explained and voted on by the 9 members working on that property, and ratified 7-2 with 100% of the affected members voting.

The agreement calls for a 6% increase of total compensation over 3 years. Members working under this agreement did not have any retirement benefits so that was a top priority for them. Terms of this agreement are:

- Effective upon ratification, the union will establish an "IBEW Local Union 1245 Money Purchase Pension Plan" for all bargaining unit employees under this agreement that will be held in individual employee accounts and will only be paid to employees upon severance with the company. The company will contribute 2% of each employee's hourly rate for each hour worked to fund the plan. Contributions into this plan began Sept. 1, 2014.
- Effective July 5, 2015 the wage rates that were in effect on June 30, 2015 will be increased by 2% for all classifications.

- Effective July 1, 2016 the wage rates that were in effect on June 30, 2016 will be increased by 1%.
- Effective July 1, 2016 the company shall contribute an additional 1% of each employee's hourly rate for each hour worked to fund the Money Purchase Pension Plan. This will raise the total employer contribution to 3%.

### Nevada

We are also looking at discussing the new NV Energy agreement for Northern Nevada. We are expecting Davey to bid on this contract for a multi-year agreement.

Vacations are still the main topic in Unit meetings and we are continuing to bring those issues to the company when they arise. We have requested for the company to list all hours on the tally sheet in each yard to show all employees their totals for past years accumulation.

Central Coast and Los Padres Divisions are working Monday through Saturdays, 60 hours a week. They have hired new employees to get back on schedule.

**Mario's Tree Service:** They are helping Utility Tree in Yosemite Division with getting back on schedule,

working in Atwater and Merced areas. All is going well and no issues at hand. The employees did receive a pay increase on Aug. 3.

**Mountain Enterprise:** The company has addressed the majority of the issues system-wide. Two crews are working in the Yosemite Division helping Utility Tree with reliability work.

**Osrose:** We have received a few calls about small issues regarding subsistence pay and wage progression. We have talked to management and employees regarding these matters.

**Synergy:** Synergy is in the San Jose area working for Utility Tree and in the Yosemite Division as well. They are also in the Fresno area helping Trees Inc. They are staying busy. There have been a few minor issues regarding raises and paychecks.

**Trees Inc:** The work picture has been picking up system-wide, with the option of working overtime Saturdays to get caught up on PG&E work. On SMUD work, members have been working 10-hour days for a while and it looks like they are staying on 10's for a while longer. SMUD has many projects lined up.

The Fresno Division is mandating that employees work 60 hours weekly. We spoke to Supervisor Manoj, advising him that Saturdays would be voluntary to employees. He stated that the

Division is 6% behind and that they need to work the six days a week. We suggested that he write a letter asking for crews to help the company and work the six days. We told him that we would help out by talking to union member employees, encouraging them to comply so as to help with catching up with their forecast schedule.

**Utility Tree** – The Yosemite Division is going strong, working Monday through Saturdays, 60 hours weekly. They also have Synergy working and helping out—three crews in Atwater. Bakersfield is only working 40 hours, same as the San Jose crews. The Yosemite crews are not being allowed to take vacations, no time-off because of the need to meet forecast. We're hoping that they get back on schedule so that they can get their vacations. Members are tired and need time off. They have not received their cost of living raise due Aug. 3, 2014.

**Wendy's Tree Service:** An employee was fired recently for signing off on a tree that PG&E found on an audit. The company is saying that the tree was not trimmed. We are investigating.

**Wright Tree** is working on transmission lines in Central Coast. They have two crews in the Salinas area and are hiring two more. The forecast went up and they need to hire some more crews.

## Propiedades en la Ciudad de Santa Clara

### Ratificado acuerdo con Davey

**Davey Tree Surgery:** El 27 de agosto nos reunimos con Davey Tree en Livermore y logramos un acuerdo tentativo para el contrato con la Ciudad de Santa Clara. El 4 de septiembre explicamos el acuerdo y fue sometido a votación por los 9 miembros que trabajan en esa propiedad. Todos los miembros afectados por esta decisión votaron y el acuerdo fue ratificado con una votación 7-2.

El acuerdo estipula un aumento de la compensación total de 6% a lo largo de un periodo de 3 años. Los miembros que trabajan bajo este acuerdo no tenían beneficios de jubilación, por lo que este tema era una prioridad. Los términos del acuerdo son:

- Con vigencia a partir de la ratificación, el sindicato establecerá un "Plan de Jubilación de Aportación Definida del IBEW Local 1245" para todos los empleados de la unidad de negociación bajo este acuerdo. Este de plan de jubilación se manejará a través de cuentas individuales para cada empleado y solamente se le pagará a los empleados en el momento que dejen de trabajar para la compañía. La contribución de la compañía al plan será el 2% de la tarifa por hora de cada empleado, por cada hora trabajada. Las contribuciones al plan comenzaron el 1o de septiembre de 2014.
- Con vigencia a partir del 5 de julio de 2015, las tarifas de salarios vigentes para el 30 de junio de 2015 tendrán un aumento de 2% para todas las clasificaciones.

- Con vigencia a partir del 1o de julio de 2016, las tarifas de salarios vigentes para el 30 de junio de 2016 tendrán un aumento de 1%.
- Con vigencia a partir del 1o de julio de 2016, la compañía contribuirá un 1% adicional de la tarifa por hora de cada empleado, por cada hora trabajada al Plan de Jubilación de Aportación Definida. Esto significa que la contribución total de la compañía al plan de cada empleado aumentará a 3%.

### Nevada

También estamos considerando la discusión del nuevo acuerdo con NV Energy para el norte de Nevada. Esperamos que Davey participe en la licitación de este contrato para lograr un acuerdo de varios años.

Las vacaciones siguen siendo el tema principal en la reuniones de la Unidad y continuamos presentando a la compañía dichos problemas cuando surgen. Le hemos solicitado a la compañía que publique todas las horas en la hoja de control de cada patio para mostrar a los empleados sus horas totales acumuladas en años anteriores.

Las Divisiones Central Coast y Los Padres están trabajando de lunes a sábado, 60 horas a la semana. Han contratado nuevos empleados para ponerse al día con su programa de trabajo.

**Mario's Tree Service:** Están ayudando a Utility Tree en la División Yosemite para ponerse al día con el programa, trabajando en las zonas de Atwater y Merced. Todo marcha bien y

no hay problemas pendientes. Los empleados recibieron un aumento de sueldo el 3 de agosto.

**Mountain Enterprise:** La compañía ha solucionado la mayoría de los problemas a lo largo del sistema. Dos cuadrillas se encuentran trabajando en la División Yosemite ayudando a Utility Tree en trabajos de confiabilidad.

**Osrose:** Hemos recibido varias llamadas sobre problemas menores relacionados con los pagos de subsistencia y los aumentos progresivos de salarios. Hemos conversado con la gerencia y con los empleados sobre estos asuntos.

**Synergy:** Synergy se encuentra en el área de San Jose trabajando para Utility Tree y también en la División Yosemite. También se encuentran en el área de Fresno ayudando a Trees Inc. Se mantienen ocupados. Ha habido algunos problemas menores relacionados con los aumentos y los pagos.

**Trees Inc:** El panorama de trabajo ha estado mejorando a lo largo del sistema, con la opción de trabajar sobretiempo los sábados para ponerse al día con el trabajo de PG&E. En cuanto al trabajo en SMUD, los miembros han estado trabajando días de 10 horas desde hace algún tiempo ya, y parece que continuarán trabajando 10 horas diarias durante un tiempo más. SMUD tiene planificados muchos proyectos.

La División Fresno está imponiendo que los empleados trabajan 60 horas semanales. Conversamos con el supervisor Manoj y le recomendamos que los empleados decidieran voluntariamente

si deseaban trabajar los sábados. Él explicó que la división tiene un retraso de 6% y que necesitan trabajar los seis días de la semana. Le sugerimos a él que escribiera una carta pidiéndole a las cuadrillas que ayudaran a la compañía y trabajaran los seis días. Le dijimos que lo podíamos ayudar hablando con los empleados miembros del sindicato y motivándolos para cumplir con los seis días y así ayudar a ponerse al día con su pronóstico de programa.

**Utility Tree:** La División Yosemite se mantiene ocupada trabajando de lunes a sábado, 60 horas a la semana. Synergy también está trabajando para ellos y ayudando con tres cuadrillas en Atwater. Bakersfield solamente está trabajando 40 horas, al igual que las cuadrillas en San Jose. Las cuadrillas de Yosemite no pueden tomar vacaciones ni días libres ya que deben cumplir con el pronóstico. Esperamos que se pongan al día y puedan tomar sus vacaciones. No han recibido el aumento correspondiente al incremento del costo de vida del 3 de agosto de 2014.

**Wendy's Tree Service:** Recientemente un empleado fue despedido por aprobar un árbol que PG&E encontró en una auditoría. La compañía dice que el árbol no fue podado. Estamos investigando.

**Wright Tree** está trabajando en las líneas de transmisión en Central Coast. Tienen dos cuadrillas en el área de Salinas y están contratando a dos cuadrillas más. El pronóstico aumentó y necesitan contratar más cuadrillas.

**Close Calls**  
See page 23

**Casi fue un accidente**  
Consulte la página 23



# SERVICE AWARDS

## San Luis Obispo

April 4, 2014



### 35 Years

Front row, from left: Richard Mealey, (Duffy). Back row, from left: Sandra Wessel, Brett Gardner, and (Haetnjens).



### 40 Years

Stephen Clark, center, receives 40-year award from Business Rep Pat Duffy, left and Assistant Business Manager Mike Haetnjens.

Photos by John Storey



### 30 Years

Front row, from left: Robert Schwarz, (Duffy), (Haetnjens). Back row, from left: Richard Thorne, Kathleen Taylor, and William Ross.



### 30 Years

Front row, from left: Joe Lorenz, Mindy Downum, and Douglas Lawson. Back row, from left: Barton Haney, James Hayes, and Richard Etchison.



### 25 Years

Front row, from left: Steve Heckman, (Duffy). Back row, from left: Juanita Andrade and, James Quinton.



### 30 Years

Front row, from left: Joseph Mendes, Robert Martin, and Dan Rhodes. Back row, from left: Chuck MacKey, Chet Montoya, and Andrew MacDonald, and (Haetnjens).



### 20 Years

From left: (Haetnjens) and Karen Downey.



### 15 Years

From left: (Haetnjens) and Pedro Sanchez.

## HONOREES

### 40 Years

Chavez, Mike  
Chernosky, Sonia A  
Clark, Gustavo A  
Reniere, Steve  
Rogers, Barry G  
Saiz-Pinson, Deborah L

Molette, John E  
Oglesby, Daniel R  
Ramirez, Andrew P  
Romero, Dennis C  
Steingruber, John K  
Ward, Frank L  
Wessel, Sandra M

### 35 Years

Benson, Steve A  
Brefeld, Steve J  
Cates, David L  
Eads, Paula J  
Evangelista, Paul J  
Felix, Gustavo A  
Flores, Charles M  
Gardner, Brett A  
Grossman, Douglas E  
Hart, Daniel G  
Hay, Andrew P  
Houston, Russell K  
Kelley, Randall E  
Mealey Jr., Richard C

### 30 Years

Carter, Jeffrey A  
Castanon, Troy A  
Chestnut, Andrew S  
Cox, Robert E  
Daliva, Mario D  
Downum, Mindy  
Draeger, Richard F  
Eitel, Loyd E  
Etchison, Richard A  
Evangelo, Kris C  
Fielding, Rick A  
Flores, David A  
Garcia, Hector  
Geer, Kim L

Goettig, Jeffry A  
Gordon, James B  
Gryczewski, Allan  
Hagen, Matthew J  
Haney, Barton H  
Hayes, James W  
Hoppert, Monte W  
Janes Jr., Richard P  
Kovach, Joseph A  
Larson, Gregg A  
Lawson, Douglas B  
Lofstrand, Kurt E  
Lorenz, Joe E  
Macdonald, Andrew  
Mackey, Chuck J  
Martin, Robert  
McKell, James H  
McKenna, Dennis E  
Mendes, Joseph E  
Miller, Kathy L  
Montoya, Chet R  
Moon, Lynn A  
Rael, Robert E  
Rhodes, Dan  
Richardson, Ray A  
Rodriguez, Brian C  
Ross, William P  
Ryan, Timothy R

### 25 Years

Andrade, Juanita  
Heckman, Steve G  
Lamouria, Paul  
Libby Jr., Dennis K  
Long, Kenneth M  
Ortiz Jr., Eugene A  
Quinton, James D  
Reyes, Rick J  
Rizor, Chris J

### 20 Years

Coburn, Kevin C  
Downey, Karen M  
Drinkard, Christoph C  
Quiram, Douglas G  
Schmidt, John L

Salas, Carolyn M  
Sanders, Martin R  
Schwarz, Robert J  
Sherwin, Larry J  
Stoltenberg, Cheryl R  
Taylor, Kathleen  
Thorne, Richard T  
Wiley, Loring P  
Wright, David C

### 15 Years

Anthony, David J  
Brown, Corey V  
Garris, William M  
Isler, Dawnyel M  
Novotny, Dean  
Pierce, Charles F  
Redding, Walter L  
Sanchez, Pedro M  
Whittington, Roger G  
Winn, Jeremy T

### 10 Years

Anaya, Juan P  
Anderson, Matthew D  
Austin, Brad L  
Ballard, Brent D  
Barnes, Joshua L  
Buscher, Brian L  
Campos, Tara L  
Cargill, Tyrell C  
Cogan, Kyle D

Coleman, Douglas A  
Cox, Michael T  
Evangelo, Nicholas B  
Felicich, David M  
Galluzzo, Helmut Z  
Girouard, Douglas E  
Granada, Noel G  
Kadota, Todd R  
Korthuis, Cindy M  
Krisell, Brandon J  
Maclean, Brian L  
Matteson, Heather J  
Mcfadden, Dianne L  
Meade, Joshua K  
Robles, Raul S  
Roby, Jeffrey W  
Rothstein, William J  
Rupprecht, Dean H  
Smith, George O  
Solipasso, Steve M  
Zagrzebski, Richard L

### 5 Years

Anderson, Marshall L  
Auleb, Carissa M  
Batalla, Omar S  
Brown, Danielle R

Buenrostro, Jaime D  
Dvoracek, Brent J  
Foster, John N  
Glabe, Jacob A  
Holzer, Chris A  
Hough, Jimmy L  
Hudson, Inger L  
Huitron, Felipe  
Johnson, Catherine D  
Karner, Darren A  
Knowlton, Corey A  
Landre, Matthew A  
Layugan, Dustin J  
Madsen, Mitchell E  
Masterson, Anthony R  
Mcbride, Dan  
Medrano, Nick  
Mosgofian, Isaac P  
Nash, Terence  
Rotta, Nicholas D  
Schulz, Cecelia J  
Simmons, Emily E  
Steffens, Tyler A  
Thomas, Brandon A  
Voegtle, John M  
Winn, Michael D  
Wittwer, Robert J

## Seguro, from page 8

tado se soltó, y después de rebotar en el árbol le pegó a un trabajador en la cabeza”, ocasionándole la muerte. Era un miembro de solo 23 años de edad, con una joven esposa, un hijo, y otro hijo en camino. “Ese árbol lo enterró”, dijo Lamers.

John Hursh fue uno de varios miembros que ofreció recomendaciones para nunca tomar atajos al realizar el trabajo.

“No tome el camino más fácil. No tome atajos. Cada corte, por encima o por debajo de la línea, es importante,” dijo Hursh, que trabaja para Davey Tree.

## Presión

La tentación de tomar atajos es generalmente el resultado de la presión por parte de la gerencia para aumentar la producción, dijo Ken Cook de Davey Tree. Otras personas estaban de acuerdo con esta opinión.

“Todos sentimos la presión de la producción,” dijo Banfill.

Este tema también se trató en el video, donde Juan Cervantes de Trees Inc. destacó: “la gente toma atajos para hacer el trabajo más rápido y es entonces cuando suceden los accidentes.”

La presión es una realidad en la industria, por lo que la iniciativa “Mantenga la distancia” se enfoca en las acciones que un podador de árboles puede tomar para que tanto él como sus compañeros estén seguros a pesar de la

presión existente.

“Nosotros le decimos a nuestros delegados de seguridad y a todos en el trabajo que sean productivos pero que trabajen de una manera segura,” dijo en el video Justin Casey, antiguo podador de árboles. “No pueden dejar de cumplir las reglas por tratar de cortar un árbol más. Porque aún si logran cortar 50 árboles en un día, alguien les va a preguntar por qué no cortaron 51.”

Lane mencionó que los delegados de seguridad juegan un papel muy importante al transmitir este mensaje.

“Deben transmitir este mensaje a todas las personas que trabajan con ustedes. Estamos aquí para recordarles a ellos que no deben ceder ante la presión.”

## Disciplina

El IBEW 1245 ha adoptado una posición firme de que castigar a la gente por incumplir las normas de seguridad es un método ineficaz.

“Si el método principal para lograr la seguridad es la disciplina, nunca vamos a tener un lugar de trabajo más seguro,” dijo Tom Dalzell, Gerente de Negocios.

“Si la gente tiene miedo de que los castiguen por mencionar accidentes potenciales, no los reportarán nunca. Y si no los reportan, nunca sabremos lo que ocurre durante el trabajo, y por lo tanto no lo podremos corregir antes de que suceda un accidente realmente grave,” comentó.

Para ayudar a los miembros a apren-

der de los errores de los demás, el sindicato desarrolló un sistema de informes confidenciales. Los miembros pueden reportar accidentes potenciales al sindicato de forma confidencial, es decir, la gerencia nunca sabrá cuáles empleados estuvieron involucrados en el incidente. Recientemente la gerencia de Davey Tree comenzó a colaborar con el sindicato para publicar información sobre accidentes potenciales, a pesar de que la información es estrictamente anónima y la gerencia no sabe de dónde proviene la información

En lugar de usar la disciplina, el sindicato cree que la mejor manera de promover la seguridad es dando un buen ejemplo. Los delegados de seguridad han aceptado el reto y saben que para hablar sobre seguridad tienen que actuar de manera segura.

“Yo tenía malos hábitos. Nadie me los criticaba, sino que al contrario, se copiaban de lo que yo hacía y lo repetían,” contó Travis Guy, un empleado de Wright Tree que aparece en el video. “Ahora cuando me ven cumpliendo las normas de seguridad al trabajar, dicen “Travis lo hace así, de manera que nosotros también lo debemos hacer de la misma forma”. Y si no lo hacen bien, yo se los digo.”

Rosario Garcia de Trees Inc. propuso que se debería invitar a todos los nuevos podadores de árboles a ver el video en el salón del sindicato. Otros sugirieron que se les pida a las compañías de árboles que muestren el video. Y otros más querían que el video se colgara en YouTube, lo cual el sindicato ya hizo. Para ver el video, diríjase se [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ldlhq6-RoKk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ldlhq6-RoKk).



Ray Banfill, Utility Tree, moderated the meeting.

Ray Banfill, Utility Tree, moderador de la reunión.



John Hursh, Davey Tree, shares an idea with his break-out group.

John Hursh, Davey Tree, comparte una idea durante su sesión de grupo de trabajo.



A lot to think about.

Hay mucho que pensar.

## Safe, from page 8

learn what’s going in the workplace and be able to fix it before that real bad accident happens,” he said.

To help members learn from each other’s mistakes, the union has created a system of confidential reporting. Members can report close calls to the union on a confidential basis, meaning that management will never know who was involved. Davey Tree management recently began cooperating with the union in publicizing information about close-calls, even though the information is strictly anonymous and management doesn’t know the source.

Instead of discipline, the union believes the best approach to promoting safety is setting a good example. Safety stewards are stepping up to the challenge, well aware that they have to walk the walk if they’re going to talk the talk.

“I had bad habits. So people wouldn’t check me on it, they’d just see me and

do it the same way,” said Travis Guy, a Wright Tree employee appearing in the video. “Now when they see me practicing safety they go, OK, Travis is doing it so we better do it this way. And if they don’t, then I say something.”

Rosario Garcia of Trees Inc. proposed that every new tree trimmer be invited to come to the union hall to view the video. Others suggested that tree companies be asked to show it. Still others wanted to see it posted on YouTube, which the union has now done. To see it, go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ldlhq6-RoKk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ldlhq6-RoKk).

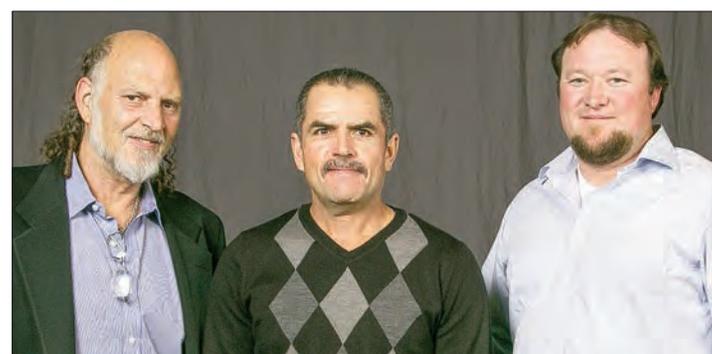
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[www.ibew1245.com](http://www.ibew1245.com)



## 10 Years

Front row, from left: Brent Ballard, Steve Solipasso, and Matthew Anderson. Back row, from left: (Haetnjens), David Felicich, and Jeffrey Roby.



## 5 Years

From left: (Haetnjens), Felipe Huitron, and Tobert Wittwer.

*Congratulations on your service!*



From left: Benigno Negrete, Moises Coronel and Ronald Johnson work together to assemble a mobile substation frame



Benjamin Martin works on a weld



Roberto Gonzalez carries a part to its correct location

**IBEW 1245 members at Delta Star**

# Power on Wheels

Story by Rebecca Band

Photos by John Storey



Ronald Johnson assembles a mobile substation frame



Alberto Marquez threads a copper cylinder



Ahmed Zadeh wires a mobile substation

When a power line goes down in a storm or some other emergency, IBEW 1245 linemen are out there in an instant. But what happens when an entire substation goes down?

That's when you call Delta Star, the country's premier and sole manufacturer of mobile substations and mobile transformers. The San Carlos-based manufacturer employs 150 skilled members of IBEW 1245 who craft and assemble this critical electronic equipment around the clock, 24 hours a day in three eight-hour shifts.

Mobile transformers and mobile substations can be used for a number of different purposes, but they are most often used as temporary substations during emergencies or as safeguards against power outages resulting from malfunctioning transformers. IBEW 1245 manufacturing members work on every element of the equipment, from the tap changers and control cabinets to the tank fabrication and heavy duty weatherproof paint coating.

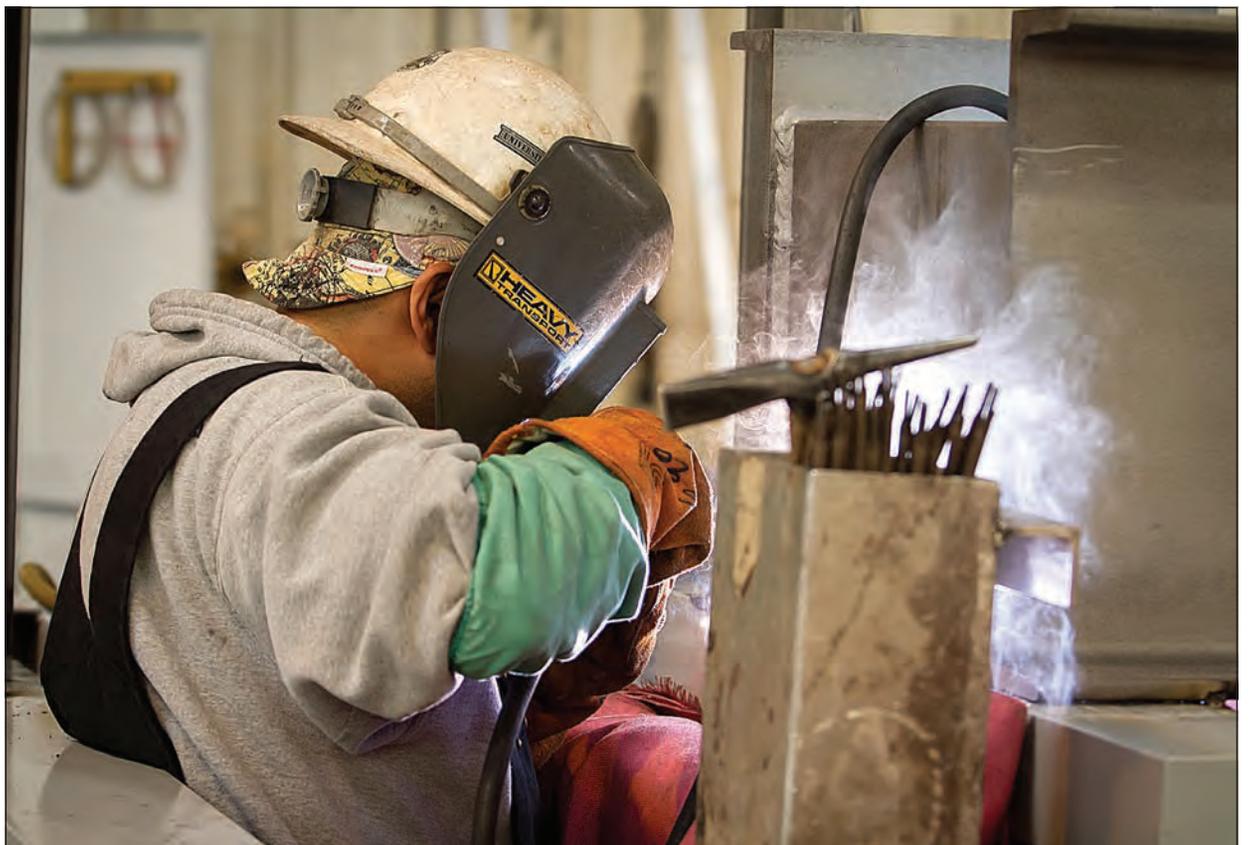
Ronald Johnson has worked at Delta Star for almost 17 years. He started as a chipper, and then became a welder, and now he works in the assembly core shop. He's proud of the work he does, and appreciates the good wages and benefits he's gotten through the union. "We have some protection here [because of the union]. And I've been able to raise my son on this job," Johnson said with pride. "He was just four or five years old when I started working here, and he's 21 now."

The IBEW members at Delta Star are formerly members of IBEW 2131, which merged with IBEW 1245 earlier this year. Delta Star is currently Local 1245's largest manufacturing employer.

"We all work really well together," said Shop Steward Danny Kutulis, who has worked at Delta Star for 48 years. "One of the reasons I've stayed here so long is because of the types of people I get to work with. They've been good people."



Ramon Cardenas and Ramon Ayala unload steel parts



Otto Carranza works on a weld



Julio Vargas drills holes in the transformer cabinet cover



Hugo Montellanos buffs the edge of a transformer piece



# SERVICE AWARDS

## Redding February 21, 2014



### 45 Years

Business Manager Tom Dalzell, back, presents 45-year awards to, from left: Ernest Bonner, Alfred Valdivia and William Paulsen.



### 35 Years

Front row, from left: Robert Harmon, Diane Morris, and Daniel Washburn. Back: (Dalzell).



### 30 Years

Ron Cochran, left, is recognized by Business Manager Tom Dalzell, for 30 years of service.

Photos by John Storey



### 30 Years

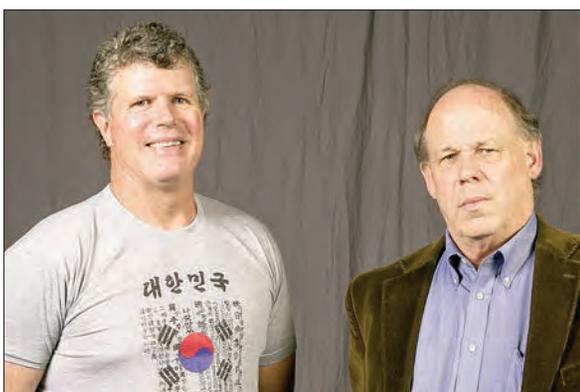
Front row, from left: Roger Davis and Geoffrey Diaz. Back row, from left: Dan Cuellar, Ted Andrews, James Johnstone.



### 30 years

From left: Harold Wolverton, and Raymond Wilson.

*Congratulations on your service!*



### 25 Years

From left: Joe Pedersen, (Dalzell).



### 20 Years

From left: John Trunnel, (Dalzell).



### 15 Years

From left: Ronald Jolley, Rex Mannion, and Ken Nachman.

## HONOREES

### 50 Years

Sunderland, Lynne

### 45 Years

Bonner, Ernest  
Paulsen, William H  
Valdivia, Alfred J

### 40 Years

Colgate, Donald G  
Easley, William R  
Keller, Jay B  
Perry, Bruce

Raglin, Robert P  
Rojas, Francisco E  
Sheeran, Dennis L

### 35 Years

Harman, Robert K  
Kuersten, Neil G  
Morris, Diane E  
Redondo, Ronald  
Roath, Richard C  
Sinclair, David L  
Stickelman, Thomas H  
Washburn, Daniel W

### 30 Years

Andrews, Ted R  
Bradley, Geraldine  
Cochran Jr., Ronald  
Cuellar, Dan A  
Davis, Roger A  
Diaz, Geoffrey  
Fowler, Joe E  
Johnstone, James B  
Martin, David L  
Urmann, Tim P  
Wilson, Raymond  
Wolverton, Harold A

### 25 Years

Christopher, Larry A  
Eckleberger, Robert L

Hart, Donna L  
Pedersen, Joe S  
Scott, Michael P  
Waller, Kenny A

### 20 Years

Cramer, Ross M  
Donham, Granniel G  
Hemping, Vance E  
Shaffley, Bruce A  
Trunnell, John M  
Walker, Roger B  
Work Jr., Walter L

### 15 Years

Baber, Robert J  
Buchanan, Carl A  
Jolley, Ronald R

Mannion, Rex J  
Nachman, Ken  
Payne, Jason M

### 10 Years

Adair, James D  
Adkins, Joseph C  
Bell, James W  
Boughton, Paul V  
Brest, Henry N  
Colgate, Kevin R  
Crawford, Robert C  
Crews, Cal F  
Dunton, Mark J  
Gomes, Ruben  
Hanscom, Nile L  
Herzog, Michael J  
James, Daniel N

King, Gary C  
Klingerman, Brian D  
Lowe, Eric T  
McPhillips, Trevor M  
Mcmanus, Diane S  
Mcmillan, Caleb C  
Meier, Craig A  
Meza, Dennis W  
Mundell, Christoph T  
Neiley, Stephen B  
Nostrand, Fredrick W  
Seylar, Timothy J  
Small, Kevin E  
Smith, Brian M  
Smith, Jason M  
Taylor, Ben W  
Vargas-Moran, Jose  
Woolam, Floyd E

### 5 Years

Burkett, Nicolas C  
Douglas, Stephen A  
Ducat, Daniel D  
Fields, James V  
Hogan, Caleb J  
Holdren, Christopher L  
Hull, Nathan I  
Jostock, Paul B  
Macias, Jaime A  
Parson, Nicholas A  
Pitlock, Edmund L  
Pitlock, Gerald A  
Schneider, Norman D  
Slavens, Robert  
Straws, Kenneth A  
Taylor, Colan J  
Westlund, Matthew B



# Redding Veterans Resource Center & IBEW Local 1245 Raise More than \$1,000 at 1st Annual Trap Fun Shoot

Story and photos by Phil Alleman, IBEW 1245 Veterans Committee

On Sunday August 10, the Redding IBEW Local 1245 Veteran's Group partnered with the Redding Veteran's Resource Center to put on their first annual Trap Fun Shoot at the Redding Gun Club. The event raised more than \$1,000, with all proceeds going directly to assist Shasta

County local veterans with housing and special needs.

IBEW Veteran Group members from the City of Redding, Bella Vista Water District, Western Area Power Administration and the City of Shasta Lake volunteered their time and labor to work the event. Military veteran IBEW members cooked and served a breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee and

juice. Experienced IBEW trap shooters provided shotguns to novice shooters who did not own a shotgun and provided assistance to those novice shooters on the firing line. Qualified IBEW members also worked as Range Safety Officers to ensure it was a fun and safe event for all.

Trophies were given to the Men's High Score (Robert Wert 25 for 25), Women's High Score (Julie Santos 9 for 25) and Best Competitor (Robert Dean 24 for 25). Certificates were also given out for "Great Sportsman", "Best First Time Shooter" and "Best Dressed." A raffle was held at the end of the shoot and many of those in attendance left with outstanding gifts and prizes donated by local Redding vendors.

The second annual VRC & IBEW Trap Fun Shoot will be held in May of 2015 and annually after that every May. The weather was a bit warm on the firing line but shooters took it in stride and had a great time. Many shooters commented when leaving at the end of the day how they are looking forward to



High Woman 2014 winner, Julie Santos



Best Competitor 2014, Robert Dean



Taking a shot



The grub masters



Heroes helping heroes



A helping hand



## 10 Years

Front row, from left: Kevin Colgate, Frederick Nostrand, and Brian Smith. Back row, from left: Christoph Mundell, Henry Brest, and Nile Hanscom.

Utility Reporter



## 5 years

Front row, from left: Nicolas Burkett, Norman Schneider, and Paul Jostock. Back row, from left: Stephen Douglas, Daniel Ducat, and Christopher Holdren.



# SERVICE AWARDS

## San Jose

May 23, 2014

*Congratulations on your service!*



### 45 Years

Tom Mints, center, receives 45-year award from Senior Assistant Business Manager Bob Dean, left, and Business Rep Casey Barker.

Photos by John Storey



**40 Years** From left: James McCoy and Colleen Morris.



**35 Years** Front row, from left: Karen Russell, Jiro Takeuchi. Back row, from left: Business Rep Debbie Mazzanti and Scott Boynton, joined by Business Manager Tom Dalzell.



**30 Years** Front row, from left: Jim Cisneros and Mark Newman. Back row, from left: Rudolfo Camins and William Henderson.



**30 Years** Front row, from left: Socorro Sorensen and Richard McKinney. Back row, from left: Richelle Gallegos and Robert Mettalia.



**25 Years** Front row, from left: Arun Maharaj and Latonya Fernandez. Back row, from left: Harold Pitre and Ronald Nunez.



**15 Years** Jong-Hwa Choi, right, receives award from Dalzell.



**10 and 5 Years** Front row, from left: Tien Nguyen and Heraclio Mendez. Back row, from left: Michael Trujillo, Terrus Washington, Joe (Ralph) Esquivel, (5 years).

## HONOREES

### 45 Years

Mints, Tom E

### 40 Years

Boyen, Richard C  
Eng, Helen H  
Hernandez, Jose  
Herrera, Robert A  
Hickman, Douglas R  
Morris, Colleen A

### 35 Years

Alvarez, Manuel J  
Atondo, Ricky  
Boynton, Scott K  
Bravo, Mario L  
Fung, Jeffrey  
Furch, Ernest  
Gazay, Michael O  
James, Tom L  
Myers, Alan A  
Nakanishi, Clifford  
Nazareno, Oscar V

Russell, Karen A  
Silva, Fernando  
Wortman, Terre C

### 30 Years

Ackerman, Vance  
Blanchard, Eric M  
Bull, Edward  
Chee, Betty  
Cisneros, Jim  
Curtiss, Michael W  
Eberhardt, Scott W  
Filbin, Mike M  
Fitzgerald, Maureen E  
Gallegos, Richelle  
Henderson, William J  
Kiel, Bradley S  
Kuebler, Anthony R  
Larson, Lyle B  
Martin II, Russell C  
McClenahan, James E  
McKinney, Richard D  
Mortimer Jr., Richard  
Moyano, Rick A

Naipo, Derek J  
Negranza, Donny G  
Periandri, Vincent L  
Satariano, Louis J  
Sorensen, Socorro  
Stouffer, Bill A  
Tapella, Michael C  
Tolch, Johna R  
Youmans, Michael J

### 15 Years

Berumen, Horacio R  
Choi, Jong-Hwa  
Cruz, Lorenzo M  
High, Richard C  
Loughlin, Sean D  
Mendoza-Reyes, Leonel

### 10 Years

Battaglia, Vince J  
De Anda, Rene C  
Diaz, Martin W  
Eckstein, Cathy C  
Ellefsen, Jason S  
Garcia, Hector  
Gonzales, Steven R  
Green, Damian P

Guerrero, Mark A  
Ha, Cuong 'Sonny'  
Hayden, Charles B  
Herrera, Jason L  
Holtz, Mark L  
Kesson, Roberta D  
Ketterling, Camerod D  
McMillan, Jeremy S  
Mendez, Heraclio R  
Mendoza, Mario C  
Mendoza, Teresa G  
Mirelez, John  
Munoz Jr., Margarito  
Nava, Louie R  
Perry, William C  
Picht, Shane M  
Polumbus, Ida I  
Pucine, Mark A  
Quijada, Nelson A  
Romo, Ismael G  
Shear, Michael C  
Suyeda, Robert F  
Townsend, Frank W  
Trujillo, Michael R  
Villagomez, Lucas  
Volz, David C  
Wojbula, Eileen M

### 5 Years

Ceja, Marcos  
Cottengim, Ryan M  
Darone, Troy A  
Esquivel, Ralph J  
Foss, Warren E  
Frese, Karl W  
Gonzales-Resurreccion, Brenda  
Guerrero, George  
Hankla-Macias, Danielle  
Hrupek, James C  
Lamahewa, Amali S  
Lund, Kyle A  
Marks, Charles M  
McKernan, Gregory P  
Papalii, Malia K  
Quijada, Brandon P  
Resendiz, Leobardo  
Robinson, Odell  
Sanderson, Benjamin  
Valencia, Juan C  
Varner, Richard  
Ventura, Bayani A  
Volz, Dustin E  
Winters, Cory D

*Love was in the air at the rodeo, as wives, children and parents cheered and embraced their linemen. One lineman even proposed to his girlfriend on stage in front of all in attendance. (She said yes.)*

**IBEW/PG&E Lineman's Rodeo**

# Competition...and Romance

The IBEW 1245/PG&E Lineman's Rodeo is more than a competition; it's a chance for apprentices and journeyman linemen to display their remarkable skills and show their families and friends what their day-to-day work is actually like.

Transmission Crewman Jakub Krzyminski, who competed with the "T-Line South" team at this year's Rodeo, brought his wife, kids and mom out to see him in action. It's not every day his family gets to see him do his job, since his crew is usually working way out in the woods and his loved ones



Transmission Crewman Jakub Krzyminski

can't just drive up and watch. It was Krzyminski's first Rodeo, and he clearly enjoyed the competition and camaraderie between the different teams.

"It's great seeing all your work buddies who you haven't seen in a while. It's kind of like a family reunion, because we're all like a family here," he said.

The 3rd annual Rodeo drew more than 1,000 spectators to the PG&E training facility in Livermore, many of whom came to cheer on their linemen family and friends who were competing in the Rodeo events. With rock-climb-

ing and face-painting for the kids, raffle prizes for the adults, exciting competition for the linemen, plus live music and a tasty BBQ for all, it truly was "fun for the whole family."

Natalie Chene, wife of apprentice lineman Jordan Chene, travelled from Bakersfield with her 18-month-old daughter and their puppy to cheer on her husband as he competed. Jordan, a third-year apprentice and dedicated Rodeo competitor, took first place at a recent Lineman's Rodeo in Reno, and Natalie couldn't mask her pride and adoration as she talked about bringing her daughter out to watch her husband compete.

"I think it's so cool that she gets to see what her dad does," Natalie said, beaming while bouncing the toddler on her lap. "We think that [being a lineman] is just the coolest job ever. We're really proud of him, and it's just so great to see him up there."

Love was certainly in the air at the rodeo, as wives, children and parents cheered and embraced their linemen. One lineman even proposed to his girlfriend on stage in front of all in attendance (she said yes, of course!). But love wasn't the only thing in the air; a live transmission tower demonstration sent helicopters directly overhead, with the crew attached to the chopper by bungee cord. When the wind from the helicopter started to lift up some of the tents on the ground, the demo was cut short to avoid putting spectators at risk, but it was still one of the day's more thrilling moments.

Other highlights from the Rodeo included an earthquake simulator, a cable-splicing demo and the screening of the film, "Storm Soldiers," which tells the story of the linemen who brave the worst weather conditions to bring power back on for countless families and communities.

The IBEW 1245/PG&E Lineman's Rodeo has grown in leaps and bounds since it first began just three years ago, and has expanded to include more teams from outside of PG&E. This year, Modesto Irrigation District, NV Energy, LADWP and SoCal Edison all sent teams to compete against the PG&E linemen. Many of the local linemen agreed that bringing in these other teams made the competition that much more exciting.

At the end of the day, John Parks, PG&E's senior director of electric maintenance and construction, gave out the awards for the Rodeo winners, with help from IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell and Senior Assistant Business Manager Bob Dean.

"When we talk about the Lineman's Rodeo, we often talk about celebrating the craft. It's a noble craft that's been around for more than 150 years. But I've never heard a lineman talk about the rodeo that way. When the linemen talk about it, they talk about how much they want to win," Dalzell said to the crowd just before the awards ceremony. "We've celebrated the craft all day, now let's celebrate the winners!"

The results of the Rodeo don't just determine who gets a trophy; they also determine which apprentices and journeymen will be representing PG&E at

the International Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas this fall. Those winners are: Apprentices Jordan Chene, Rob Schneider, Tanner Boren, Mike Moreno, Sean Hunt and Brandon Dance, and Journeymen Curtis Bryan, Landon Patton, Tim Mace, Anthony Albright, Adam Beene and JP Richard.

Although not everyone could leave with an award, each lineman who put his skills to the test left as a winner. Congrats to all the competitors, and a heartfelt thank-you to the families and friends who came out to support them.



Rubber glove event

See more photos from the rodeo at [www.ibew1245.com/pg/](http://www.ibew1245.com/pg/)

## The Winners

### Journeyman Overall

First: Anthony Albright, Adam Beene and JP Richard  
Second: Jack Flavin, Juan Pulido, Willie Rios (SoCal Edison)  
Third: Landon Patton, Tim Mace, Matt Devine

### Journeyman Pole Climb

First: Ryan Araujo, George Murillo, Raudel Ruiz Jr (SoCal Edison)  
Second: Mark Landers, Josh Mauchley, Facundo Ronquillo  
Third: Anthony Albright, Adam Beene and JP Richard

### Journeyman Hurt Man Rescue

First: Ryan Araujo, George Murillo, Raudel Ruiz Jr (SoCal Edison)  
Second: Victor Madrigal, Sean Coulson, Matt McCurdy (MID)  
Third: Luke Bogart, Jared Conway, Jacob Hunt

### Journeyman Mystery Event #1

First: Anthony Albright, Adam Beene and JP Richard  
Second: Mike Brock, Isaac Dimmett, Ben Williams  
Third: Jack Flavin, Juan Pulido, Willie Rios

### Journeyman Mystery Event #2

First: Victor Madrigal, Sean Coulson, Matt McCurdy (MID)  
Second: Mark Landers, Josh Mauchley, Facundo Ronquillo  
Third: Steve Bentley, George McNeill, Jim Moon

### Spirit of Competition Award

Zachary Huseby

### Apprentice Overall

First: Brandon Dance  
Second: Sean Hunt  
Third: Mike Moreno

### Apprentice Hurt Man Rescue

First: Sean Hunt  
Second: Brian Cox (LADWP)  
Third: Logan Schaffer

### Apprentice Pole Climb

First: Brian Casas (LADWP)  
Second: Erik Moring  
Third: Anthony Holguin

### Apprentice Mystery Event

First: Matt Ramey  
Second: Rob Schneider  
Third: Nick Smith

### Apprentice Written Exam

First: Tim Moore  
Second: Daniel Lane

### Apprentice CPR/First Aid

First: William Henry  
Second: Patrick Luz  
Third: Danny Torres (SoCal Edison)

(All of the above are PG&E except where noted)

August 16, 2014  
Livermore, CA

Story by Rebecca Band

Photos by John Storey

PG&E Apprentice Thade Fahy performs Hurt Man Rescue



PG&E Apprentice Jordan Chene performs Mystery Event



IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell addressing the crowd just before the awards ceremony began.



Natalie Chene with her daughter



PG&E Journeyman Facundo Ronquillo performs the Pole Climb



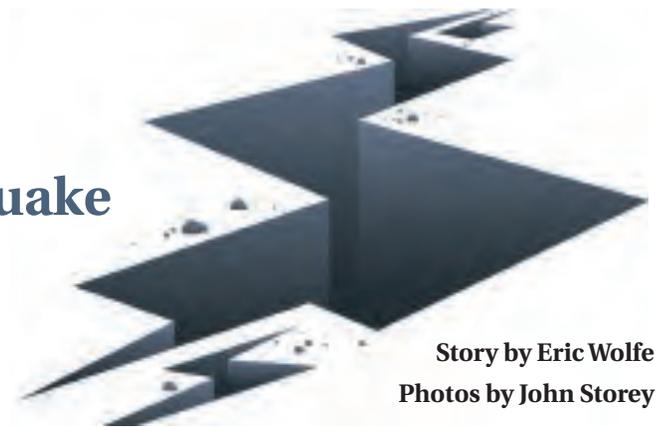
PG&E Apprentice William Henry performs the Hurt Man Rescue



PG&E blue was the dominant color on the roadways in Napa on Sunday, along with fire engine red.

# MAKING IT SAFE

## PG&E gas workers respond to Napa Quake



Story by Eric Wolfe  
Photos by John Storey



After checking the house, Gas Service Representative Roger Shields assures a customer that there is no gas leak.



San Francisco-based Troublemaker Ken Ward at work in Napa.

**I**BEW 1245 gas workers swarmed across the Napa area in the hours after the 6.0 magnitude earthquake on Aug. 24, responding to over 400 PG&E customer calls of gas odors and doing whatever it took to make it safe. In many cases, all it took was a quick check by a gas serviceman.

But things were a little more serious at a house near the intersection of First and Seymor in Napa when Gas Service Representative Darren Nelson arrived. The pillars holding up the roof of the front porch were canted far to the right ... and occasionally creaking loud enough to be heard from the street.

"I guess there were a multitude of calls on the same leak. The house slipped off the foundation and ripped the manifold apart," said Nelson, a six-year member of IBEW 1245.

Another serviceman had already capped the line at the service valve and the Fire Department had come and gone. Nelson was getting ready to wrap things up and leave himself, but something changed his mind. He heard the house—"like it was getting ready to fall over."

"I was scared it was going to take the service out and shear off the other riser in the process so I called in for a crew to get it capped off," he said. "If that house goes, it's going to shear the riser off, so they're going to cap it off inside the property (line) or at the street."

Nelson had been called in the wee hours to come help in Napa after working until midnight in Stockton, where he is based. As soon as Gas Crew Foreman Joe Goldstein's crew arrived to deal with the creaking house, Nelson rushed off to the next trouble spot before the Utility Reporter could even get his picture.

Goldstein used a pipe locator to quickly locate where to dig, Equipment Operator Brad Matlock broke the surface with a backhoe, and Gas Crew Lead Welder Ron Knepper hand-shoveled down to the line. Goldstein installed the cap, securing the line.

All three men had driven up to Napa from Concord after receiving calls at about 5:00 a.m. Soon they too would be racing off to the next problem. Asked how long he expected to be working on this emergency, Matlock said: "We work til everybody's back."

The earthquake was a prescription for long hours. Gas Service Representative Roger Shields, a two-year IBEW member, was called out at 8:30 a.m. from Windsor and put in close to 16 hours before calling it a day as Sunday drew to a close.

"I got to the hotel at midnight and left the hotel at 7 a.m. (Monday)



Equipment Operator Brad Matlock starts the dig to find the gas line.



Ron Knepper is ready with his shovel as the dig begins at the damaged home near First and Seymour in Napa.



Conferring on the cap job are, from left, Ron Knepper, Joe Goldstein and Brad Matlock.

morning,” said Shields, still on emergency duty.

Roads in Napa and Sonoma counties were thick with Fire Department red and PG&E blue in the hours after the quake. PG&E dispatched 40 electric crews and an armada of gas service trucks to the area, and IBEW members were ready to put muscle behind PG&E’s promise of service and safety.

PG&E began courtesy gas safety checks at homes and businesses across the impacted



Steve Bittner, Gas Crew Leader – Welding, at work in Napa in the wake of the quake.

Utility Reporter



Capping the line at the street.

area the day after the quake.

The temblor was the largest in the Bay Area since the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. Over 200 people were injured, a handful of them seriously. Over 100 houses in the Napa-Vallejo area were red tagged as too dangerous to enter, and another 500 houses were yellow tagged as too dangerous to live in.

Undetected or uncontrolled gas leaks could have made it a lot worse. IBEW 1245 gas workers made sure that didn’t happen.



Steve Harvey, Gas Service Rep based in Oakland, at work in Napa.



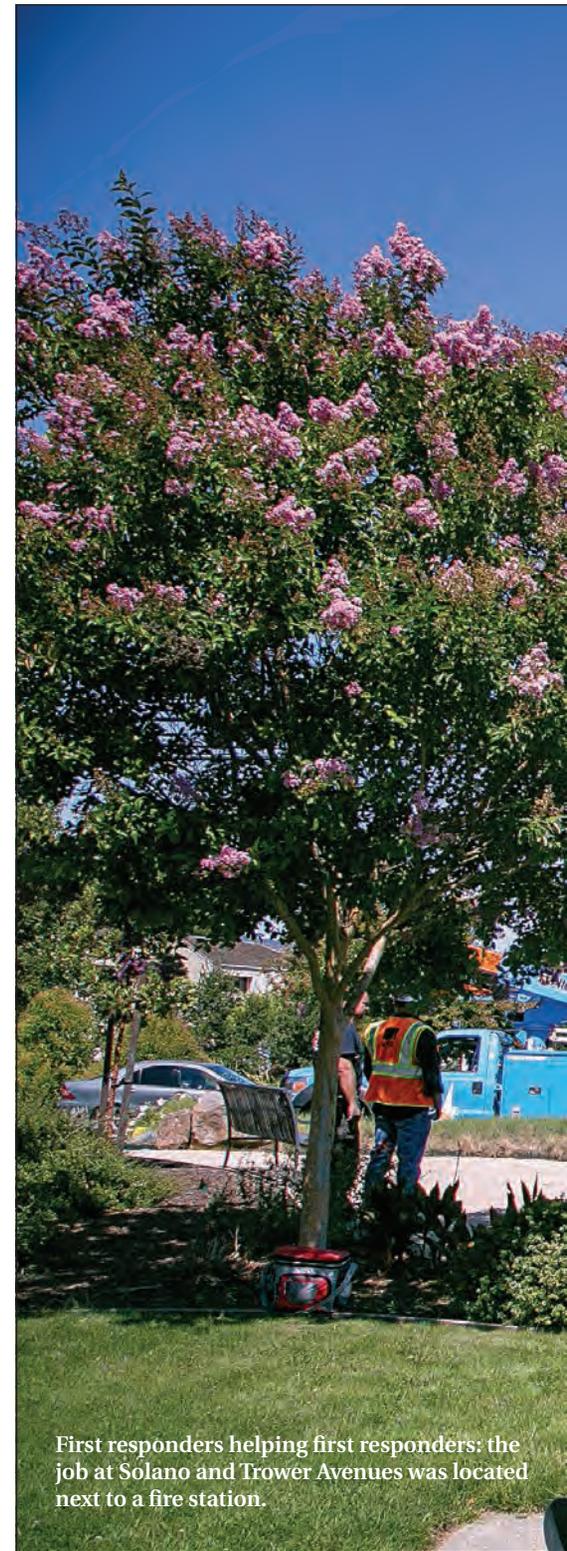
Lineman Wrenn Rittehouse, a 25-year IBEW member, works near Solano and Trower Avenues in Napa.



Like everyone else, PG&E trucks had to deal with traffic congestion brought on by non-functioning traffic signals.



Lineman Andrew Sanderson, a 12-year IBEW 1245 member, works near Solano and Trower Avenues in Napa.



First responders helping first responders: the job at Solano and Trower Avenues was located next to a fire station.

## RESTORING

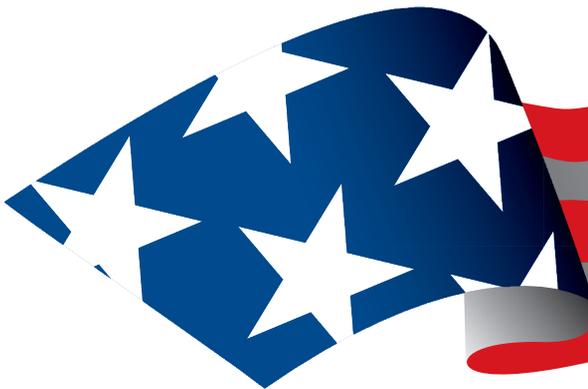
Lineman Donovan Rupp was home sleeping when the earthquake struck.

“The whole house went like a bumpy road, non-stop—boom boom boom,” said Rupp. But a house he owns closer to downtown Napa on Vallejo Street fared worse: “Pushed off its foundation six feet,” he said.

The earthquake that jolted the Napa-Vallejo area on Aug. 24 measured 6.0 on the Richter scale, the largest quake to hit the Bay Area in 25 years. It struck at 3:20 on a Sunday morning. By 4 a.m. Rupp was already at his Vallejo Street house, “turning off the meter, disconnecting the electric and boarding it up to keep people out.”

But then, like many IBEW 1245 members, he put his personal problems aside and by 7:00 a.m. he had reported to work, ready to begin restoring the light to some 70,000 PG&E customers who had gone dark.

“I made that decision because I wanted to go do something else and not think about it too much. It’s nice to discon-



# Election 2014

Utility Reporter Union Voter Guide — Fall 2014

## Register to Vote – it's easy!

The voter registration deadline is October 20 in California and October 14 in Nevada!

### Register online:

#### In California:

<http://registertovote.ca.gov/>

#### In Nevada:

<https://nvsos.gov/sosvoterservices/Registration/step1.aspx>

or pick up a paper voter registration application at your county elections office, library, DMV or post office.



## Elections Matter



Dear IBEW 1245 member,

The great American middle class wasn't something that just happened. It was built, brick by brick, by the hard work of our parents and grandparents and the unions that represented them. By standing together as workers, they created the 40-hour work week, paid

vacations, meal breaks, sick days and wages that were once the envy of the world. They spoke up for themselves at work, and they also got active in local politics, because they recognized that elections matter.

Times have changed, but elections still matter. They matter for our members in the public sector, who are directly impacted by the elected officials that also happen to be the employers on the other side of the bargaining table. They matter for our utility and private sector members, because politicians have the power to take away the workplace rights and safety protections our grandparents fought and sometimes died for. And they matter for our families and communities, which inevitably suffer when a lousy policy-maker decides to gut funding for things we all need, like roads, schools and bridges, in order to give even more tax breaks to the wealthy billionaires and multinational corporations.

The only thing that stands in our opponents' way is the same thing that stood in their way in our grandparents' generation: working people standing together to make our voices heard at work AND at the

ballot box. And that means casting our votes for the candidates who we believe will work the hardest on behalf of our families. That's why the union has taken the time to research the candidates and to let you know what we have found.

The only reason we still have strong worker protection laws is because working men and women like you (and your family members) have volunteered your time to help elect pro-worker lawmakers who will protect, defend and strengthen the laws that we benefit from every day.

### Here's what you can do to make a difference:

- Register to vote, and make sure everyone in your family has too.
- Volunteer for a labor-backed political campaign in your area.
- Get out and vote on Election Day, and remind your friends, family and co-workers to do the same!

Thank you for helping keep our union and our communities strong.

In Unity,

Tom Dalzell  
IBEW 1245 Business Manager

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## Volunteer

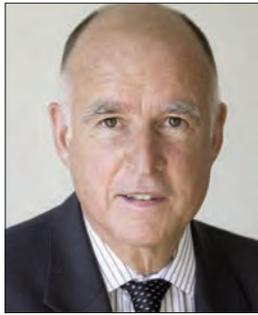
See page H for the Central Labor Council nearest you.

# CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE CONSTITUTIONAL RACES

## GOVERNOR

### Edmund “Jerry” Brown

Gov. Jerry Brown has always backed unions and supports the right to organize. When workers at CalPine were organizing to join IBEW 1245, Gov. Brown met with our CalPine organizing committee and gave them encouragement and support amidst a difficult and hostile anti-union campaign. Gov. Brown has signed more than 40 pro-worker bills into law over the last four years. He's expanded Paid Family Leave and raised wages for construction workers by strengthening prevailing wage laws. He's tackled the underground economy, raised the minimum wage to \$10 an hour, and has been a vocal advocate of the job-creating high-speed rail project.



Edmund “Jerry” Brown



*Jerry Brown is endorsed by IBEW 1245.*

## SECRETARY OF STATE

### Alex Padilla

As a state legislator, Alex Padilla was a strong supporter of pro-worker legislation. According to the California Labor Federation, Padilla voted with working families 96% of the time in 2013. Padilla sponsored an important bill last year in the State Senate to require charter city proposals to be placed on general election ballots in order to maximize voter participation. Increasing voter participation will continue to be one of his primary goals if he is elected as Secretary of State.



Alex Padilla

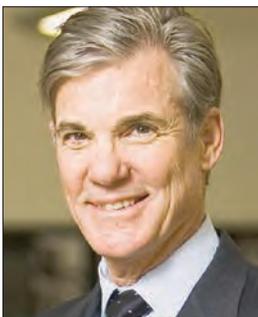


*Alex Padilla is endorsed by IBEW 1245.*

## SUPERINTENDANT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

### Tom Torlakson

As a lifelong union member, Tom Torlakson understands the issues that matter most to California's working families. As a state legislator, Torlakson fought to expand union organizing rights and worked to stave off efforts to eliminate the eight-hour day and lunch breaks. “He has been a tireless advocate for prevailing wage on all public works projects, believing in the quality of construction using the most highly



Tom Torlakson

trained, streamlined work force to build world-class schools that will last for decades, providing taxpayers the best value for their dollar,” California State Building and Construction Trades Council leader Robbie Hunter noted.

*Tom Torlakson is endorsed by IBEW 1245.*



## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

### Gavin Newsom

Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom has been a friend to the labor movement since his time as Mayor of San Francisco. He's joined hotel workers on the picket line, and formed special partnerships with teachers' unions to stave off layoffs during the economic downturn. Known for his innovative family-friendly policies, Newsom launched the “Healthy San Francisco” program which provided quality, affordable healthcare for 82,000 uninsured San Franciscans years before federal health care protection went into effect.



Gavin Newsom



*Gavin Newsom is endorsed by IBEW 1245.*

## TREASURER

### John Chiang

John Chiang has proven he will fight to protect our wages. In 2010, when Gov. Schwarzenegger ordered then-Controller Chiang to start paying state employees the federal minimum wage of \$7.25/hour (75 cents less than California's minimum wage at the time), Chiang refused to comply. “Reducing state salaries to the federal minimum wage will do nothing to solve the budget deficit,” Chiang wrote in an op-ed in the Sacramento Bee. “But it will cost California billions of dollars in penalties and damages for violating the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and the California Constitution.”



John Chiang



*John Chiang is endorsed by IBEW 1245.*

## CONTROLLER

### Betty Yee

As a member of the State Board of Equalization since 2006, Betty Yee has the experience and know-how to take on the role of Chief Fiscal Officer for the state of California. Yee has pledged to preserve retirement security for public employees by protecting defined

benefit plans, and she has numerous ideas to ensure CALPERS and CALSTERS are able to fulfill their commitment to our state's retirees. “California needs to work diligently to ensure public employee and teacher retirees as well as private sector workers can realize retirement security at the end of their careers,” Yee has said.



Betty Yee



*Betty Yee is endorsed by IBEW 1245.*

## INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

### Dave Jones

Since being elected Insurance Commissioner in 2010, Dave Jones has worked aggressively to make sure every Californian has access to quality, affordable health care. He issued emergency regulations to require that at least 80 percent of the individual health insurance premiums go to actual health care, and not to insurer profits, marketing and overhead; as a result, he has saved policyholders more than \$1.6 billion in insurance premiums. Prior to serving as Insurance Commissioner, Jones was a champion in the state legislature, where he sponsored more than 70 bills that were signed into law, on health issues ranging from medical record privacy to senior abuse and HMO discrimination.



Dave Jones



*Dave Jones is endorsed by IBEW 1245.*

## ATTORNEY GENERAL

### Kamala Harris

A true “Main Street” lawmaker, Kamala Harris dedicated her first term as Attorney General to stemming the tidal wave of foreclosures that was devastating California's communities and economy. She worked closely with organized labor to pass the Homeowners Bill of Rights in 2012, which guarantees basic fairness and transparency for families who are struggling to keep their homes. Following passage of Harris' key legislation, the number of home foreclosures in California dropped by 75%. She has also cracked down on big banks and bad employers that skirt the law and exploit California workers.



Kamala Harris



*Kamala Harris is endorsed by IBEW 1245.*

# Key Races

## UNITED STATES CONGRESS – DISTRICT 7

### Ami Bera stands up for working people

Congressman Ami Bera voted against a “territorial tax system” that would allow corporations to pay almost no U.S. taxes on their overseas profits when they send jobs overseas, giving corporations an enormous incentive to outsource jobs. His opponent, Doug Ose, backed NAFTA and other job-killing free trade agreements that hurt domestic manufacturing and have cost California nearly 125,000 jobs.



Ami Bera

Bera believes in investing in our future and voted to preserve funding for vital infrastructure projects. By comparison, Doug Ose voted against \$620 million in funds for transportation enhancement programs that were meant to reduce traffic congestion through community-based projects.

Bera stood up for workers and opposed allowing employers to stop paying overtime pay by providing “comp time” instead. Meanwhile Doug Ose has voiced support for efforts to revise overtime rules that could have caused more than 8 million workers to become ineligible to receive overtime pay when they work more than 40 hours a week.

IBEW 1245 recommends a vote for Ami Bera.



## UNITED STATES CONGRESS – DISTRICT 10

### Michael Eggman will bring a fresh outlook to the Central Valley

While Michael Eggman believes that the hard-hit Central Valley needs all the job-creating projects it can get, his opponent Jeff Den-

ham has strongly advocated rejecting \$6 billion in state and federal funding for California’s voter-approved high-speed rail project and instead send the money – and jobs – to the East Coast.



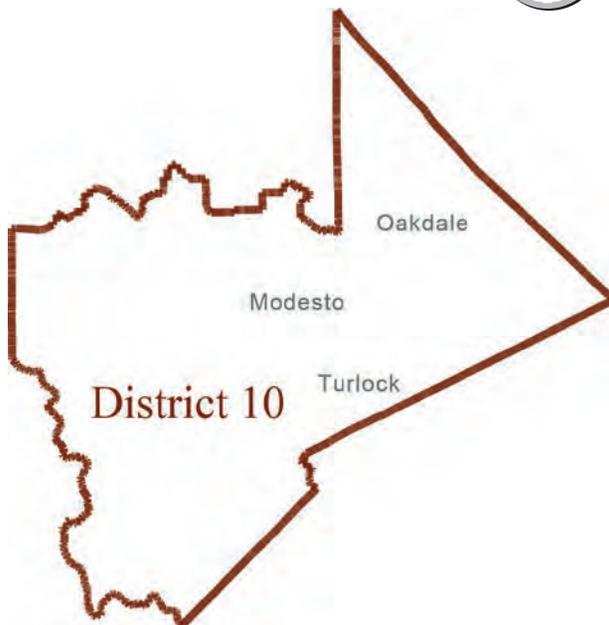
Michael Eggman

Michael Eggman recognizes that one of the simplest ways to lower unemployment is to end tax giveaways for businesses that send American jobs overseas, and ensure our tax dollars always give preference to companies that are hiring workers here at home – not in countries that are competing with us.

“American workers have the skills and work ethic to compete with anyone in the world, but not if we use our tax dollars to subsidize cheap labor in other countries,” Eggman said.

Michael Eggman believes all seniors deserve to retire with dignity and security, and has vowed never to support a bill that would cut Social Security or Medicare in an effort to balance the budget. His opponent has voted numerous times to cut and privatize Social Security.

IBEW 1245 recommends a vote for Michael Eggman.



## UNITED STATES CONGRESS – DISTRICT 17

### Mike Honda: a proven champion for workers

Congressman Mike Honda is a lifelong champion for labor and an ally of working families at home and at the national level – from mentoring emerging labor and elected leaders to his ardent legislative efforts to create stronger protections for workers.

Honda has earned a 97% lifetime score from the AFL-CIO for his leadership on issues that affect working families. His opponent, Ro Khanna, claims to support unions, but at a recent campaign event, his field director was caught on tape shouting anti-union slogans.\*



Mike Honda

Honda advocates for Workforce Investment Act

Programs, and fights to bring money home for workforce training and support programs. He has successfully appropriated millions of dollars for labor job training projects in the district, such as the Center for Training and Careers, the Joint Workforce Investment Transit Academy, and the California Construction College at the City College of San Jose.

IBEW 1245 recommends a vote for Mike Honda.



\*thelefthook.com/2014/05/07/ro-khanna-showing-his-anti-labor-side/



## UNITED STATES CONGRESS – DISTRICT 21

### Amanda Renteria will support Central Valley working families

Amanda Renteria supports California’s voter-approved high speed rail but wants to see a functional financial plan that can make the vision a reality and bring thousands of quality construction, maintenance and operations jobs to the hard-hit Central Valley. Her opponent, David Valadao, staunchly opposes the construction and development of high speed rail. CREW reports that the congressman’s family operates Valadao Dairy, which owns hundreds of acres of land along one of the proposed rail lines, and would face reduced property values as a result of the project.



Amanda Renteria

As the Chief of Staff overseeing the Agriculture Committee, Amanda Renteria led the team that authored, negotiated, and gained passage of the 2012 Senate Farm Bill, a landmark achievement and one of only a few major bipartisan successes of the past few years. It reduced the federal deficit by \$23 billion while protecting conservation, food aid, and healthy foods initiatives.

Amanda Renteria understands the importance of preserving and strengthening Social Security and Medicare so our seniors can retire with dignity. “Older Americans have worked their entire lives to build a prosperous economy, and we should respect and

continued on next page

honor their contributions by strengthening Medicare and Social Security,” Renteria has said. Her opponent, David Valadao, voted twice in favor of a budget that would slash Social Security and end the Medicare guarantee for seniors.

IBEW 1245 recommends a vote for Amanda Renteria.



## CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE – DISTRICT 12

### Anthony Cannella reaches across the aisle to make a difference

Senator Anthony Cannella worked closely with Labor to reform the state’s broken enterprise zone system last year. By working across party lines to pass Senate Bill 90, Senator Cannella helped keep and create new jobs in communities that suffer from high unemployment, and ended a wasteful corporate tax giveaway that cost the state \$700 million every year.



Anthony Cannella

Cannella also co-sponsored a bill to protect California’s prevailing wage law for workers in the construction industry. SB 7 disqualifies cities that ban the prevailing wage from receiving state construction grants, and was signed into law by Governor Brown in 2013.

Cannella authored SB 841 to initiate efforts to build a new medical school on the UC Merced campus. The project will create new construction jobs, add professional health care positions and improve the quality of health care in the Central Valley.

IBEW 1245 recommends a vote for Anthony Cannella.



# Our Voice, Our Choice

IBEW 1245 organizing steward Kristen Rasmussen knows a way she can truly make her voice count this election season: she’s volunteering her time to help elect pro-worker candidates in the Northern Central Valley area where she lives. Kristen, a PG&E Customer Service Rep from Stockton, recently graduated from the North Valley Labor Federation’s TEAM (Training to Educate and Activate Members) Program, a four-week training on the nuts and bolts of coordinating a winning campaign.

“I have attended most of the Organizer trainings that IBEW has offered, and have walked away with a greater understanding of the organizing process each time,” Kristen said. “This training brought all of those other trainings together. I always knew that community-based action was the most effective if you needed to get something done. Now, I have the tools and the knowledge as well as the resources to make a larger impact for working families.”

Kristen, along with members of many other unions, learned about power building, economics, volunteer recruitment and voter contact strategies at the unique TEAM training. The program was designed to recruit new rank-and-file activists and build interest and skills for the North Valley Labor Federation’s political program in 2014 and beyond.

The injection of new activists comes at a critical time in the North

Valley, where unemployment, foreclosure and crime rates continue to outpace those from around the state. However, shifting demographics from the continued expansion of the Bay Area and Sacramento, a growing Latino population and the promise of thousands of High Speed Rail jobs leaves the North Valley full of potential.

“The future is looking brighter in the North Valley, and one big reason is these TEAM activists stepping forward,” said Mike Loza, President of the North Valley Labor Federation. “We can’t thank our trainers and organizers enough for putting together a program that identified and inspired such amazing new member-activists.”

Kristen isn’t the only IBEW 1245 member making a difference this election season. Dozens of organizing stewards and member-activists are already hard at work on important local races across California and Nevada, and their numbers are growing every day.

Step up and make *your* voice count in the November 4th election! Volunteer to help get out the vote at a Central Labor Council in your area. Find the list on page H.



Kristen Rasmussen



**CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE –  
DISTRICT 14**

**Luis Chavez will restore balance and bring jobs to the Central Valley**

**A**s a Fresno school board trustee, Luis Chavez understands that the key to combatting persistently high unemployment in the Central Valley is to reinvest in our workforce and prepare our children for the jobs of tomorrow. He supports universal kindergarten to help close the achievement gap; high school career tech training to link education and training with jobs; and access to college for everyone.

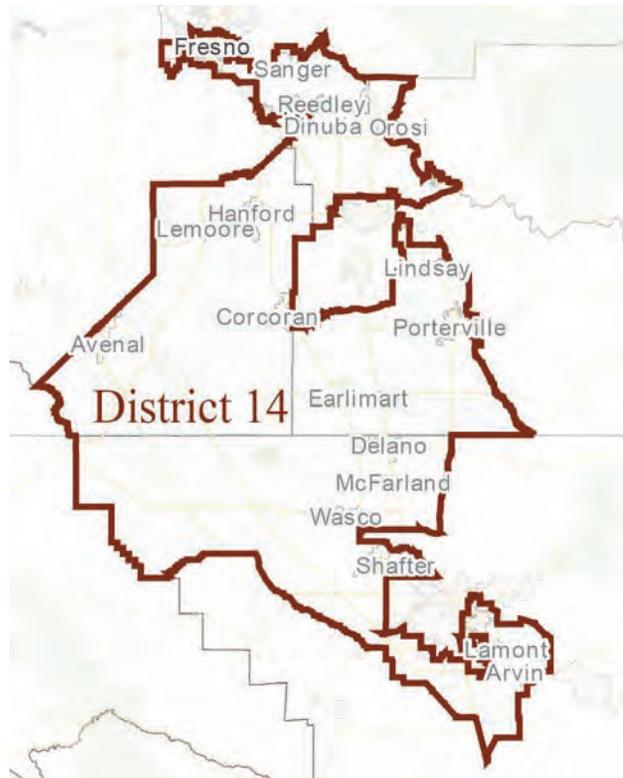


Luis Chavez

Chavez understands the needs of working families and has the backing of nearly every major union in the Fresno area. His opponent, Andy Vidak, was one of five State Senators who was awarded a perfect score by the notoriously anti-union California Chamber of Commerce in 2014.

Luis Chavez supports construction of California's voter-approved high-speed rail project and the thousands of jobs it would bring to the Central Valley. His opponent has repeatedly attempted to block high-speed rail construction, despite the high unemployment numbers in his district, especially among construction workers.

*IBEW 1245 recommends a vote for Luis Chavez.*



**CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY –  
DISTRICT 8**

**Ken Cooley is the best choice for California's working families**

**A**ssemblyman Ken Cooley voted to improve prevailing wage enforcement by giving the state labor agency the tools it needs to combat the underground economy and crack down on employers that fail to pay prevailing wage on construction projects.



Ken Cooley

Ken Cooley has been endorsed by a number of unions and pro-labor lawmakers. His opponent, Doug Haaland, boasts the endorsement of the notoriously anti-union Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association PAC.

Cooley helped pass SB 509 through the Assembly, which allowed 500 jobs in Rancho Cordova to come online, and further ensures that employees working with both businesses and individuals on new health insurance coverage are properly vetted to federal standards, providing essential consumer protections.

*IBEW 1245 recommends a vote for Ken Cooley.*



**CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY –  
DISTRICT 16**

**Tim Sbranti: union member, labor supporter**

**T**im Sbranti is a life-long union member and advocate for working families. Sbranti recognizes that workers have the right to stand together and go on strike if their employer refuses to provide them with decent working conditions. His opponent, Catherine Baker, has actively tried to block workers at BART from exercising their legal right to strike. On her website, Baker boasts that she would actually seek to pass legislation that would make it illegal for some workers to go on strike.



Tim Sbranti

During his tenure as Mayor of Dublin, the Bay Area town became the second fastest growing city in California, attracting new businesses and thousands of jobs. As Mayor of Dublin, Sbranti has broken ground on the construction and development of several new parks projects, bringing quality construction jobs to the region. By comparison, his opponent, Catherine Baker, has vocally opposed job-creating construction projects such as California's High-Speed Rail.

Sbranti understands that a rising tide lifts all boats, and he supports a further increase in minimum wage so workers can keep up with the rising cost of living. At a time when economic inequality is at Great Depression-era levels and wages have been stagnant for more than a decade, Sbranti believes the minimum wage should be indexed with inflation so working people have a chance to get ahead instead of falling further and further behind.

*IBEW 1245 recommends a vote for Tim Sbranti.*



**Six years ago, Al Franken won a U.S. Senate seat by 312 votes out of nearly 1.5 million cast.**

**Yes, Your Vote Matters!**

# IBEW 1245: CALIFORNIA ENDORSEMENTS

## Candidates

### United States Congress

District 1 – Heidi Hall  
 District 2 – Jared Huffman  
 District 3 – John Garamendi  
 District 4 – No Endorsement  
 District 5 – Mike Thompson  
 District 6 – Doris Matsui  
 District 7 – Ami Bera  
 District 8 – Paul Cook  
 District 9 – Jerry McNerney  
 District 10 – Michael Eggman  
 District 11 – Mark DeSaulnier  
 District 12 – Nancy Pelosi  
 District 13 – Barbara Lee  
 District 14 – Jackie Speier  
 District 15 – Eric Swalwell  
 District 16 – Jim Costa  
 District 17 – Mike Honda  
 District 18 – Anna Eshoo  
 District 19 – Zoe Lofgren  
 District 20 – Sam Farr  
 District 21 – Amanda Renteria  
 District 22 –  
 Suzanna Aguilera-Marrero  
 District 23 – No Endorsement  
 District 24 – Lois Capps

### California State Constitutional Offices

Governor – Edmund “Jerry” Brown  
 Lieutenant Governor –  
 Gavin Newsom  
 Secretary of State – Alex Padilla  
 Attorney General – Kamala Harris  
 Controller – Betty Yee  
 Treasurer – John Chiang  
 Insurance Commissioner –  
 Dave Jones  
 Superintendent of Public  
 Instruction – Tom Torlakson

### California Board of Equalization

District 1 – Chris Parker

District 2 – Fiona Ma  
 District 3 – Jerome Horton  
 District 4 – No Recommendation

### California State Senate

District 2 – Mike McGuire  
 District 4 – C.J. Jawahar  
 District 6 – Roger Dickinson  
 District 8 – No Endorsement  
 District 10 – Bob Wieckowski  
 District 12 – Anthony Cannella  
 District 14 – Luis Chavez  
 District 16 – No Endorsement  
 District 18 – Robert Hertzberg

### California State Assembly

District 1 – No Endorsement  
 District 2 – Jim Wood  
 District 3 – Jim Reed  
 District 4 – Bill Dodd  
 District 5 – No Endorsement  
 District 6 – Brian Caples  
 District 7 – Kevin McCarty  
 District 8 – Ken Cooley  
 District 9 – Darrell Fong  
 District 10 – Marc Levine  
 District 11 – Jim Frazier  
 District 12 – Harinder Grewal  
 District 13 –  
 Susan Talamantes Eggman  
 District 14 – Susan Bonilla  
 District 15 – Tony Thurmond  
 District 16 – Tim Sbranti  
 District 17 – Open  
 District 18 – Rob Bonta  
 District 19 – Phil Ting  
 District 20 – Bill Quirk  
 District 21 – Adam Gray  
 District 22 – Kevin Mullin  
 District 23 – No Endorsement  
 District 24 – Rich Gordon  
 District 25 – Kansen Chu  
 District 26 – No Endorsement

District 27 – Nora Campos

District 28 – Evan Low

District 29 – Mark Stone

District 30 – No Endorsement

District 31 – Henry T. Perea

District 32 – Rudy Salas

District 33 – No Endorsement

District 34 –  
 Virginia Mari Goodman

District 35 – No Endorsement

District 36 – Steve Fox

District 37 – Das Williams

## California Statewide Ballot Measures

### Water Bond

**No Recommendation** **ON 1**

**Water Bond. Funding for Water Quality, Supply, Treatment, and Storage Projects.**

Prop 1 would allow the state of California sell \$7.1 billion in additional general obligation bonds to fund various water-related programs.

### State Budget

**No Recommendation** **ON 2**

**State Budget. Budget Stabilization Account.**

Prop. 2 would amend the State Constitution to change how the state pays down debt and saves money in reserves.

### Healthcare Insurance

**No Recommendation** **ON 45**

**Healthcare Insurance. Rate Changes.**

Prop 45 would require the Insurance Commissioner’s approval before changes in some health insurance rates for individual and employer small-group plan could go into effect.

### Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors

**No Recommendation** **ON 46**

**Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors. Medical Negligence Lawsuits.**

Prop 46 would require random drug testing of doctors, require doctors to check a statewide database before prescribing certain drugs, and raise the cap on noneconomic damages in medical negligence lawsuits.

### PROPOSITION 47

**YES** **ON 47**

**Criminal Sentences. Misdemeanor Penalties.**

Prop 47 would reduce penalties for certain offenders convicted of non-serious, non-violent crimes from felonies to misdemeanors.

### PROPOSITION 48

**YES** **ON 48**

**Referendum on Indian Gaming Compacts.**

Prop 48 asks the voters to approve or reject the gaming compacts that Gov. Brown negotiated with the North Fork and Wiyot tribes. A YES vote approves the legislative statute and allows the compacts to go into effect; a NO vote rejects the statute and voids the compacts.

**Democracy works,  
 but only if you  
 VOTE!**

# Key Local Races

The local officials we elect today are sometimes the same officials we face across the bargaining table tomorrow. It's bad news for IBEW 1245 members when some local commissioner decides to reject wage hikes or other improvements we've just negotiated in good faith at the bargaining table. Our union has found the following local candidates to be fair-minded. *Please give them your vote.*

## FISHMAN FOR SMUD BOARD

Gregg Fishman has the right experience to serve on the Sacramento Municipal Utility District Board of Directors. He spent 10 years helping the California Independent System Operator reform and strengthen the state's electric grid, and currently serves as the Communications Coordinator for the California State Association of Counties.



Gregg Fishman

As a Board Member of the Arden Park Recreation & Park District, Fishman helped renovate neighborhood parks and expand fitness and aquatics programs for youth, adults and senior citizens. As an active member of the Sacramento Tree Foundation, he coordinates an annual shade tree planting in his neighborhood. He is also a 20-gallon blood and platelet donor

for Sacramento Bloodsource.

IBEW 1245 believes that Fishman is someone who will listen to workers' concerns, and will bring valuable experience to the job. *Let's help elect Gregg Fishman to the SMUD Board of Directors.*



## GUILLEN FOR OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL – DISTRICT 2

As an elected official, Abel Guillen had advocated for quality education, job creation, and responsible, transparent fiscal management.

*IBEW 1245 supports Guillen for Oakland City Council.*



Abel Guillen

## DOMINIC CASERTA FOR SANTA CLARA CITY COUNCIL SEAT 5

A teacher for 17 years, Caserta has also served Santa Clara as a Council Member and Vice Mayor.

*IBEW 1245 supports Caserta for Santa Clara City Council.*



Dominic Caserta

## JEFF MARCHINI FOR MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD

*IBEW 1245 supports Jeff Marchini for Merced Irrigation District Board, Division 1.*



Be an informed voter

Learn the facts

# IBEW 1245: NEVADA ENDORSEMENTS

## Candidates

- ### Nevada Statewide Constitutional Offices
- Lt. Governor – Lucy Flores
  - Secretary of State – Kate Marshall
  - State Treasurer – Kim Wallin
  - State Controller – Andrew Martin

Attorney General – Ross Miller

- District 32 – John Sampaga
- District 40 – Dave Cook

Board of Supervisors B – John Mayer

### Nevada Congressional Districts

District 4 – Steven Horsford

### Local Races in Washoe County

- W.C. Commissioner 2 – Terri Thomas
- W.C. Commissioner 3 – Kitty Jung
- W.C. Commissioner 5 – John Gavin
- County Assessor – Joshua Wilson
- County Clerk – Nancy Parent
- Public Administrator – Don Cavallo
- District Court Dept. 5 – Cynthia Lu
- District Court Dept. 6 – Doug Rands
- District Court Dept. 8 – Lidia Stiglich
- District Court Dept. 14 – John Springgate

Board of Supervisors C – Barbara Clark

Board of Supervisors F – Veronica Frenkel

Sheriff – Tim Kuzanek

Reno Mayor – Hillary Schieve

Reno City Council Ward 2 – Naomi Duerr

Reno City Council Ward 4 – Paul McKenzie

Reno Attorney – Brett Kandt

Sparks Mayor – Gino Martini

Sparks City Council Ward 2 – Ed Goodrich

Sparks City Council Ward 4 – Rudy Viola

Sparks Justice of the Peace – Chris Wilson

### Nevada State Senate

- District 13 – Debbie Smith
- District 14 – Keith Harrison

### Nevada State Assembly

- District 24 – David Bobzien
- District 25 – Miklas Putman
- District 27 – Teresa Benitez-Thompson
- District 30 – Mike Sprinkel
- District 31 – Skip Daly





# Make your voice heard!

Help elect candidates who will help us! Even one afternoon or evening can make a big difference.  
Contact the Central Labor Council nearest you.

## Alameda Labor Council

Josie Camacho,  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
100 Hegenberger Rd, Ste. 150  
Oakland, CA 94621  
Phone: (510) 632-4242  
FAX: (510) 632-3993  
www.alamedalabor.org  
josie@alamedalabor.org

## Butte – Glenn Counties CLC

1009 Sycamore Street, Suite B  
Chico, California 95928  
Phone: (530) 873-3680  
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## Contra Costa County CLC

Margaret Hanlon-Gradie,  
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FAX: (925) 228-0224  
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margaret@cocolabor.net

## Five Counties CLC

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900 Locust St., Room 7  
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FiveCountiesCLC@ymail.com  
lyerion@ufcw8.org

## Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings CLC

Randy Ghan,  
Secretary-Treasurer  
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Fresno, CA 93721  
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[http://myunionworks.com/  
fmtkclc@aol.com](http://myunionworks.com/fmtkclc@aol.com)

## Humboldt and Del Norte Counties CLC

John Fram  
840 E St, Ste 9  
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## Kern, Inyo and Mono Counties CLC

Donny Williams, President  
200 W. Jeffrey Street  
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donlyn5302@sbcglobal.net

## Marysville Central Labor Council

Ed Ritchie, Secretary-Treasurer  
468 Century Park Drive  
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eritchie@oe3.org

## Merced-Mariposa CLC

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## Monterey Bay CLC

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## Napa-Solano CLC

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## North Bay Labor Council

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lisa@northbayclc.org

## North Valley Labor Federation

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Phone: (209) 522-4900  
FAX: (209) 949-2652  
facebook.com/northvalleylabor  
twrobertson@gmail.com

## Sacramento CLC

Bill Camp, Executive Secretary  
2840 El Centro Rd., Suite 111  
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FAX: (916) 927-1643  
www.sacramentolabor.org/  
bill.camp@sacramentolabor.org

## San Francisco Labor Council

Tim Paulson, Executive Director  
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FAX: (415) 440-9297  
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tpaulson@sflaborcouncil.org

## San Joaquin-Calaveras CLC

Catherine Houston,  
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115 Sutter St. Suite 200  
Stockton, CA 95202  
Phone: (209) 948-5526  
FAX: (209) 948-2652  
chouston@usw.org

## San Mateo County CLC

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Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
1153 Chess Drive, Suite 200  
Foster City, CA 94404  
Phone: (650) 572-8848  
FAX: (650) 572-2481  
www.sanmateolaborcouncil.org  
smclc@sbcglobal.net

## South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council

Ben Field, Executive Officer  
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Lineman Donovan Rupp reported to work despite major damage to his own property, saying “It’s nice to disconnect (from your personal issues) and go to work and do what you’re trained to do...”

# ING THE LIGHT

## PG&E electric workers respond to Napa Quake

nect and go to work and do what you’re trained to do and have fun at it,” Rupp said. “Our Napa yard is pretty solid.”

Mid-morning found Rupp and the rest of his Napa crew positioning three trucks at the corner of Solano and Trower Avenues, where cars were backed up in several directions and emergency vehicles, sirens blaring, weaved through the traffic more or less continually. It probably didn’t help that this particular intersection was also home to Napa Fire Station No. 3.

The crew was looking at two primary phases needing attention. “One must have come down (in the quake) and the T-man must have cut the other,” Rupp said.

Complicating the situation: the crew had to wait for a flagging contractor to get to the scene. Trying to work in this narrow corridor without professional traffic control could have posed a significant safety hazard to the public—not to mention the crew itself. But eventually the crew was able to make the fix and move onto the next job.

Rupp’s day, which began with his house

going “boom boom boom” at 3:20 on Sunday morning, didn’t end until he went home for a rest at 8:30 Monday morning—knowing that the “big stuff is done.” By then, power was already restored to virtually everyone, thanks to 40 PG&E electric crews dispatched to the quake zone.

Although there were quake-related injuries, a few of them serious, Rupp says the people he encountered while working had only experienced “minor stuff, like things falling” and were trying to keep things in perspective.

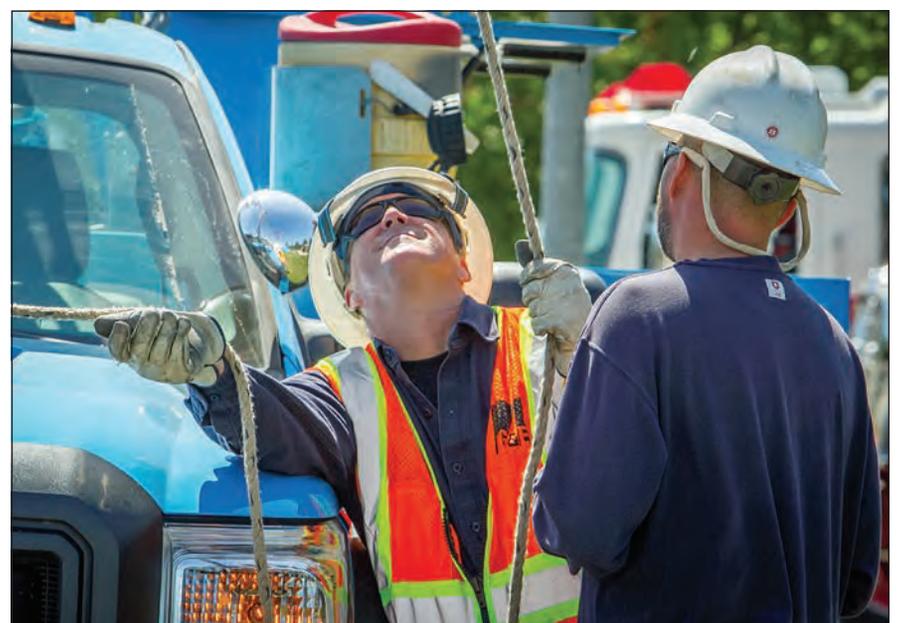
“Working all day and all night can be really taxing,” he acknowledged, “but our guys know how to cheer ourselves up. We take care of ourselves.”

At some point he knows he’ll have to deal with his damaged house, calling it “quite an eyeful.” It’s not the house’s first brush with disaster. It was also damaged in the flood of 2006, which caused \$300 million in damages in 10 northern California counties.

“It’s been my project for a while,” Rupp said of the ill-fated house. “So it’s going to be my project a little longer.”



Article by Eric Wolfe  
Photos by John Storey



Lineman Robert “Ros” Rigley, left, a 23-year IBEW member, works on the ground.



# SERVICE AWARDS

## Fresno

March 14, 2014



### 35 Years

Front row, from left: Dale Johnson, Victor Moses, and Eddie Silva. Back row, from left: Jeff Charleston, (Habecker), and Rod Dixon.



### 30 Years

Front row, from left: Jimmie Pyle, Jr. and Dan Neathery. Back row, from left: Tony Reed, Dave Worstein, Steve Hakker.



### 25 Years

From left: Steven Rickert, Michael Roeseler, Miguel Tena.



### 40 Years

From left: Terry Spain and Frank Flores receive 40-year award from Recording Secretary Chris Habecker and, in back, Business Manager Tom Dalzell.



### 30 Years

Front row, from left: Jose Zavala and John Shertenlieb. Back row, from left: (Habecker), Kevin Stenroos, and Crystal Puckett.

Photos by John Storey



### 20 Years

Front row, from left: Francine De La O, Teresa Ochoa, and Mary Prado. Back row, from left: Clara Harkness, Joan Taff, Valerie Lopez, and Angela Kappes.



### 5 Years

Front row, from left: Gary Henley, Victor Cordero, Sherry Guerra. Back row, from left: Mike Avedesian, Christy Jimenez, Wendy Guynes.

*Congratulations on your service!*

### 10 Years

From left: Peggy Rogers-Butler and (Habecker).



## HONOREES

### 50 Years

Sunderland, Lynne

### 45 Years

Bonner, Ernest  
Paulsen, William H  
Valdivia, Alfred J

### 40 Years

Colgate, Donald G  
Easley, William R  
Keller, Jay B  
Perry, Bruce

Raglin, Robert P  
Rojas, Francisco E  
Sheeran, Dennis L

### 35 Years

Harman, Robert K  
Kuersten, Neil G  
Morris, Diane E  
Redondo, Ronald  
Roath, Richard C  
Sinclair, David L  
Stickelman, Thomas H  
Washburn, Daniel W

### 30 Years

Andrews, Ted R  
Bradley, Geraldine  
Cochran Jr., Ronald  
Cuellar, Dan A  
Davis, Roger A  
Diaz, Geoffrey  
Fowler, Joe E  
Johnstone, James B  
Martin, David L  
Urmann, Tim P  
Wilson, Raymond  
Wolverton, Harold A

### 25 Years

Christopher, Larry A  
Eckleberger, Robert L

Hart, Donna L  
Pedersen, Joe S  
Scott, Michael P  
Waller, Kenny A

### 20 Years

Cramer, Ross M  
Donham, Granniel G  
Hemping, Vance E  
Shaffley, Bruce A  
Trunnell, John M  
Walker, Roger B  
Work Jr., Walter L

### 15 Years

Baber, Robert J  
Buchanan, Carl A  
Jolley, Ronald R

Mannion, Rex J  
Nachman, Ken  
Payne, Jason M

### 10 Years

Adair, James D  
Adkins, Joseph C  
Bell, James W  
Boughton, Paul V  
Brest, Henry N  
Colgate, Kevin R  
Crawford, Robert C  
Crews, Cal F  
Dunton, Mark J  
Gomes, Ruben  
Hanscom, Nile L  
Herzog, Michael J  
James, Daniel N

King, Gary C  
Klingerman, Brian D  
Lowe, Eric T  
McPhillips, Trevor M  
Mcmanus, Diane S  
Mcmillan, Caleb C  
Meier, Craig A  
Meza, Dennis W  
Mundell, Christoph T  
Neiley, Stephen B  
Nostrand, Fredrick W  
Seylar, Timothy J  
Small, Kevin E  
Smith, Brian M  
Smith, Jason M  
Taylor, Ben W  
Vargas-Moran, Jose  
Woolam, Floyd E

### 5 Years

Burkett, Nicolas C  
Douglas, Stephen A  
Ducat, Daniel D  
Fields, James V  
Hogan, Caleb J  
Holdren, Christopher L  
Hull, Nathan I  
Jostock, Paul B  
Macias, Jaime A  
Parson, Nicholas A  
Pitlock, Edmund L  
Pitlock, Gerald A  
Schneider, Norman D  
Slavens, Robert  
Straws, Kenneth A  
Taylor, Colan J  
Westlund, Matthew B

# Close Calls / Casi fue un accidente

## Look Up and Live!

At a jobsite with a 100 footer a chase truck was chipping the brush that was falling near the road. Trimmer in bucket cut a piece of wood and while dropping the limb hits another tree far away from chipper truck. Somehow the wood lands next to the crew. Crew on ground needs to keep an eye out for wood falling out of control.

## ¡Levante la mirada y sobreviva!

En una zona de trabajo donde había un árbol de unos 30 m de alto (100 pies), un camión de apoyo se encontraba triturando las ramas que caían cerca del camino. El podador que se encontraba en una canasta cortó un trozo de madera. Al soltarla, la rama chocó contra otro árbol lejos del camión triturador. De alguna manera el trozo de madera cayó al lado de la cuadrilla. La cuadrilla en tierra debe estar alerta en casos de que la madera caiga fuera de control.

## Snap Cut

Had something happen that taught me not to position bucket right on snap cut. Almost dropped chunk into bucket!

## Corte de poda

Algo me sucedió que me enseñó a no colocar la cesta justamente debajo del punto de corte. ¡La rama casi cayó dentro de la cesta!

## Yellowjacket Surprise

About a year ago I was a climber and my foreman told me that we were going to do an overhang and I was going to hold the rope while he made the cut. When he was ready to make the cut he said, "are you ready?" and I said "yeah" Then I yelled "wait"! I stepped on a yellowjacket nest and they were biting me. I had 20 bites and let go of the rope to run. The foreman saw me run and turned off the chainsaw. Good thing he saw what happened.

## Sorprendido por avispas

Hace un año aproximadamente, yo era trepador y mi capataz me informó que íbamos a cortar una rama que colgaba de una línea. Mi trabajo era sostener la cuerda mientras él hacía el corte. Cuando estaba listo para el corte, él me preguntó, "¿estás listo?" y yo le dije "sí". Luego grité "¡espera!". Había pisado un nido de avispas y me estaban

picando. Tenía 20 picadas y solté la cuerda para correr. El capataz me vio correr y apagó la sierra eléctrica. Menos mal que él vio lo que sucedió.

## Very Close Call

A foreman was working at a house the day before and I was told to come back the next day to finish the job. It was windy that day and I backed up the truck near where I was going to work. I got out of the truck to talk to the homeowner a tree 6" dbh 30' high fell 1 foot in front of me. Watch out when the wind is blowing, branches and trees can come down.

## Casi fue un accidente

Un capataz realizaba trabajos en una casa y me dio instrucciones para regresar al día siguiente para terminar el trabajo. Ese día había mucho viento y coloqué el camión en retroceso hasta un lugar cercano a donde iba a ejecutar el trabajo. Salí del camión para hablar con el dueño de la casa y en ese momento un árbol de DAP de 15 cm (6 pulgadas) y 9 m (30 pies) de altura cayó 30 cm (1 pie) delante de mí. Tengan cuidado cuando haya vientos fuertes, algunas ramas y árboles pueden caerle cerca.

## Forgot to Tie In

While climbing a maple tree approximately 60 ft. I was in position to tie in and start limb walking out on the limbs using a single rope. It was a taught line hitch style climb line I thought it was clipped to my D-ring. I started to run out a limb when I noticed my climb line hanging down. I was able to jump to the trunk and get tied in.

## Olvidé sujetarme

Mientras escalaba un arce de aproximadamente 18 m (60 pies) de altura, estaba en posición de sujetarme y comenzar a caminar sobre las ramas usando una sola cuerda. La línea estaba tensa e iba a escalar usando un gancho. Pensé que había conectado el gancho a mi argolla en D. Comencé a correr sobre una rama cuando me di cuenta que mi cuerda de escalar estaba suelta. Pude saltar al tronco y sujetarme.

## Started Fire Under Truck

While going to dump chips the driver drove over a small pile of old chips, put the outriggers out and proceeded to dump chips. The exhaust caught the old chips on fire. They were able to get the truck pulled forward and get the fire out.

## Se originó un incendio debajo del camión

Al ir a descargar unas astillas, el conductor pasó con el camión por encima de una pequeña pila de astillas viejas, sacó los estabilizadores y comenzó a descargar las astillas. El tubo de escape hizo que las astillas viejas se incendiaran. Fue posible mover el camión hacia delante y apagar el incendio.

## Limb Dropped on Primary Line

Two guys were up in a 100ft. bucket truck. One guy holding limbs and one guy cutting limbs. The chainsaw guy cut too big a piece and the other guy couldn't hold it. He dropped the limb directly on the power lines. Luckily the limb bounced off and didn't cross phase the lines.

## Una rama cayó sobre una línea primaria

Dos individuos estaban en un camión canasta de 30 m (100 pies). Uno estaba aguantando las ramas y el otro las estaba cortando. El individuo que tenía la sierra eléctrica cortó un pedazo demasiado grande y la otra persona no lo pudo sujetar. Dejó caer la rama directamente sobre las líneas eléctricas. Afortunadamente la rama rebotó y no se produjo un cortocircuito entre las líneas.

## Climber Almost Hit

We were roping down a FP R2 digger pine with a 65' bucket truck. The climber was roping the tops through a crotch and the foreman was running the rope. The climber mis-judged the lean of the top and when the top went it broke off and swung around directly over the climber in the bucket. He was able to react fast by squatting down in the bucket as the top flew by. Nobody was hurt but it was close.

## Un escalador casi es golpeado por la copa de un árbol

Estábamos atando un pino real FP R2 con un camión canasta de 20 metros (65 pies). El escalador estaba amarrando la copa a través de una horquilla y el capataz estaba controlando la cuerda. El escalador calculó mal la inclinación de la copa y al soltarla la copa se quebró y giró directamente sobre el escalador que estaba en la canasta. Él pudo reaccionar rápidamente y se agachó dentro de la canasta mientras la copa le pasó por encima. Nadie resultó herido pero

hubiera podido ser un accidente.

## Hit Guy Wire

My foreman and I were trimming trees near town and we were driving up the power line access road weaving around the power poles. At one point we had to drive between a power pole and a guy wire. I got out to spot for him and as he drove between them his chipper box bumped the guy wire and I got him to stop before any damage was done.

## Chocamos con un cable de amarre

Mi capataz y yo estábamos podando árboles cerca de la ciudad. Estábamos manejando por la carretera de acceso a las líneas eléctricas, alrededor de los postes. Nos encontramos en una situación donde teníamos que pasar entre un poste y un cable de amarre. Me bajé del vehículo para darle instrucciones. Al pasar el vehículo entre el cable y el poste, la astilladora golpeó el cable de amarre. Yo logré que detuviera el vehículo antes de que ocurriera ningún daño.

## Truck Jumps Blocks

On a steep hill truck with air brakes and outriggers on gravel, man boomed all the way out in front of the truck jumping the wheel blocks. Truck slid almost 23 feet before I was able to catch it and bring it to a stop by placing my foot on brake peddle!

## Un camión saltó sobre los bloques de las ruedas

En una colina empinada, un camión con frenos de aire y con los brazos estabilizadores sobre la grava, con la pluma extendida totalmente hacia el frente del camión, saltó sobre los tacos de las ruedas. ¡El camión resbaló casi 7 m (23 pies) hasta que lo pude detener colocando mi pie en el pedal!

## Not Enough Equipment

I came across a crew felling a tree and they had a rope-along in it for direction of fall. They didn't have another rope on the truck and no wedges. I put my rope along to use by using a throw line to place into tree to rig assist. Tree came down ok after that. Not enough equipment to do the job safely!

## Sin suficiente equipo

Me encontré una cuadrilla que estaba derribando un árbol y tenían una cuerda para dirigir la caída. No tenían otra cuerda en el camión ni tampoco

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continúa en la página 35



## 5 Years

Front row, from left: Jennifer Fries, Christy Webb, and Joey Valdez. Back row, from left: Manuel Arroyo, Brock Navarro, Sonia Smith, and Jeremiah Tompkins.



## 5 Years

Front row, from left: Wendy Guynes, Cesar Gonzalez, and Valdemar Guzman. Back row, from left: Raquel Garnica-Ortiz, Rosa Navarro, and Fabiola Ulloa.



# IBEW 1245 leaders help sort food for Reno needy

**I**BEW members volunteered time to help the hungry the day before the union's summer Advisory Council meeting in Reno.

Over two dozen Executive Board and Advisory Council members, including retirees and family members, spent more than two hours on July 25 sorting and shelving cans and boxes of food in Evelyn Mount's garage—a staging area for Mount's highly regarded feed-the-hungry operation.

Advisory Council member Ken Larson, Frontier Communications, said it felt good to be helping out.

"I just wanted to do some volunteer work. When I was in the military I used to volunteer at Loaves and Fishes once a month, in Sacramento. We used to go downtown and cook the meals and feed the homeless," he said. "It's something to give back to the community."

Lillian Moss, the 9-year-old daughter of PG&E Fieldman Josh Moss, knew exactly why she was there. As she helped sort cans of green beans and corn, she said it was good to help the homeless "so they can at least eat and have food in their stomachs and don't have to go to the hospital a lot."

The union members worked shoulder to shoulder. In truth, there wasn't any other way to work. The cans were stacked on shelves in Mount's one-car garage—and some earlier volunteer had neglected to move their car out of the way. Scooching by each other, the IBEW volunteers checked the expiration dates on every can and package, sending out-of-date items to a barrel on the driveway and stacking the rest for re-shelving.

"If it's out-of-date, it's gone," said IBEW 1245 Retire Club activist Ron Borst, who said he was glad to give Mount a hand. "You just have to help out once in a while."

Mount, regarded as something of a saint in the local community, came out to the garage to thank the volunteers.

"We have about 100 units that we serve, and I have 1,200 seniors that we serve. Next month we'll be giving out about 800 bags [of donated food]," she said.

As large barrels were filled with sorted food, Craig Tatum rolled them into position on the driveway.

"Some people don't have it as good as others," said Tatum, who represents Irrigation District members on the Advisory Council. He recounts his response when IBEW 1245 Recording Secretary Chris Habecker asked him to volunteer. "I said, 'Hey, let's do it!' It helps the community and the community sees us doing good things."

Jaime Tinoco, who represents the City of Lompoc on the Advisory Council, said he volunteered in order to "give back to the community" and build some good will for the union at the same time.

This was the second time that the Executive Board has hosted a community service project the day before the quarterly Advisory Council meeting. In the spring, about 18 members volunteered at the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties. But this time even more people showed up.

"It's growing every time," noted Executive Board member Anna Bayless-Martinez as she examined cans of corn for their expiration date.

The Executive Board is already thinking about volunteer opportunities they could join in conjunction with the Advisory Council's next meeting in autumn.



Advisory Council member Craig Tatum



Lillian Moss (left) and Chris Habecker



Retiree Vicki Borst



Advisory Council member Jaime Tinoco



# Units reach out to community

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

**Yerington Retiree Chapter** donated \$250 to the Yerington Animal Protection Society, to assist with the shelter's monthly pet adoption program.

**Santa Rosa Retiree Chapter** donated \$500 to assist with the cost of uniforms for the Piner High School cheerleaders and cheer camp for each cheerleader.

Cheerleaders must pay for their own uniforms. The cheerleaders are having a fundraiser to help pay for the "Prospectors in Training" 2-day camp for kids. (The retirees are partnering with the Santa Rosa unit 3712, which donated \$250 to the same cause.)

**Unit 1110, Fresno Clerical,** donated \$500 to the Cure JM Foundation. The foundation will be holding an event in San Jose Oct 3-5 at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center.

**Unit 2551, South San Joaquin,** donated \$250 to Oakdale Equine Rescue, which rescues horses, year-round, through animal control.

**Unit 3712, Santa Rosa,** donated \$250 to the Sequoia Elementary School. Several members are involved in a "Walk-a-Thon" fundraiser to buy science laboratory supplies.

**Unit 4713, San Jose/Utility Tree,** donated \$500 to the Cal Youth United soccer league to purchase soccer uniforms and equipment.

**Unit 2511, Stockton,** donated \$100 to the Misty Holt Singh Memorial Golf Tournament at the Elkhorn Country

Club. This is the Mother/Wife that was used as a human shield in a Stockton bank robbery. Her Husband is a UAW union member.

**East Bay Retirees chapter** donated \$500 to the Relay for Life-Alameda event on June 21.



**Unit 1217, Templeton,** donated \$500 to the Cerro Alto 4-H Market Goat Project.

**Unit 2318, Richmond,** donated \$250 to the West Contra Costa Youth Soccer League

**Unit 3000, Davis G.C.,** donated \$500 to the "Light the Night Walk." This is a fundraiser walk for children with leukemia.

**Unit 3309, Donner,** donated \$500 to the Truckee High School Trap Team and they will be displaying the IBEW 1245 banner at their events.

**Unit 3218, USBR/Keswick,** donated \$150 to the Shasta College Nursing Club, an organization for recognition of academic excellence in the medical field, and is actively participating in civic volunteerism.

**Unit 3311, Reno,** donated \$250 to the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth League.

**Unit 1111, Fresno,** donated \$500 to Marjaree Mason Center. The Fresno organizing stewards had a fundraising bowling event on May 24 to benefit the Center, which supports and empowers adults and children affected by domestic violence.

**Unit 2510, Manteca,** donated \$100 to sponsor Stacey Muller in the Team-in-Training/Leukemia Lymphoma Society Marathon on June 1 in San Diego, CA.

**Unit 2515, Modesto,** donated \$300 to the Central Valley organizing stewards BBQ and fundraiser on June 21. The

proceeds will benefit the City of Ceres programs for underprivileged children.

**Unit 2511, Stockton,** donated \$200 to the IBEW 1245 organizing steward-coordinated community BBQ and softball game on June 21. The proceeds will benefit the City of Ceres programs for underprivileged children.

**Unit 2512, Angels Camp,** donated \$400 for the Michelson Elementary School Parents Club to assist with their lunch and silent auction fundraiser on June 7.

**Unit 3801, Sacramento,** donated \$250 to help purchase uniforms for the River City High School Cheerleading squad.

**Unit 3801, Sacramento,** donated four hooded sweatshirts to the four winners of the Third Annual IBEW 1245 Charity Bowl held on April 26. They raised \$2,838 at the event which will benefit the Mustard Seed School, a local Sacramento school run by Loaves and Fishes, providing a quality education for homeless youth.

**Unit 3217, City of Redding,** donated

\$250 of their Community Fund to the Veterans Resource Center.

**Unit 4724, Bakersfield/Utility Tree,** donated \$500 to Ruben Martinez for the purchase of uniforms and equipment for the local soccer team.

**Unit 4721, Davey Tree/Newark,** donated \$500 to the local Mexico soccer team.

**Unit 1120, Selma,** donated \$200 to Selma Community Enhancement Inc., to support the Selma Shock Girls Softball League.

**Unit 1213, King City,** donated \$500 to the Legacy United Soccer League.

**Unit 1216, Santa Maria,** donated \$250 to Boys Scouts Troop 450 of Nipomo.

**Unit 1218, Lompoc,** donated \$500 to help build the Lompoc Fallen Warriors Memorial.

**Unit 3111, Eureka,** donated \$500 to support "Team Arcata" members of the Redwood Empire Wrestling Association.

**Unit 3217, City of Redding,** donated \$400 to help with a blood drive for Blood Source. This is a joint venture with Unit 3218 Shasta/USBR.

**Unit 3218, USBR/Keswick,** donated \$500 to help with a blood drive for Blood Source. The unit will help the Northern Free Trapper Association cook to raise money for a child with severe medical needs.

**Unit 3813, Placerville,** donated \$500 to the Snowline Hospice Center.

**Unit 3912, Fresh Pond/SMUD,** donated \$100 to the Knotty Pines Youth Bowling League.

**Unit 5231, Cal Peco/South Lake Tahoe,** donated \$500 to the South Lake Tahoe Moose Lodge to assist with the 13th Annual Kid's Fishing Derby on September 28.



Advisory Council member Ken Larson

Utility Reporter



Advisory Council member Larry Torres



# East Bay

April 25, 2014



### 40 Years

Receiving 40-year awards are, front row from left, Debora Hunter, Al Calleros and Donna Ambeau. They are joined by IBEW 1245 officers, back row from left, Vice President Art Freitas, Business Manager Tom Dalzell, and President Mike Davis.



### 40 years

Receiving 40-year awards are, front row, from left: Lee Rodrigues, Loretta Hogan, and Samuel Pine. Back row, from left: Surinder Chhabra, Michael Oler, and Paul Neufeld.

*Congratulations on your service!*



### 40 Years

Receiving 40-year awards are, front row, from left: Albert Chu, Debbie Mazzanti, and Jason Hughes. Back row, from left: Gerhard Steemers, J. Harlan Webster, and Kenneth Bruce.



### 30 years

Front row, from left: Glenn Durant and Gilbert Kidd. Back row, from left: Gerri Hayes, Gerald Hernandez, and John Longo.



### 35 years

Front row, from left: Pamela Mitchell, Luis Zapanta, and Adrienne Franks. Back row, from left, Charles Boyle, Ira Barnes, and Philip Ellyson.



### 30 years

Front row, from left: Minerva Honrada, James Kliever, and Marianne Knowlton. Back row, from left: Burdette Traylor, Mauro Gasparro, and Gordon Womble.



### 35 years

Front row, from left: Joseph Drozda, Joe Osterlund, and Michael Walko. Back row, from left: Mardo Roybal, Roger Santos, Jr., and Dane Moore.



### 30 years

Front row, from left: Michael Robertson, Jayne Foster, and Daniel O'Byrne. Back row, from left: Mike Espindola, Ernesto Crespo and Nacho Araquistain.

# HONOREES



## 30 years

From left: Lloyd Chaney, Timothy De Graef, and William Berry, Jr.



## 10 years

Front row, from left: Ryan Jenson and Carlo Villalobos. Back row, from left: Eric Records and Linda Brown.



## 25 years

From left: Robby Kenney, Maurice Evans, and James Sherfield.



## 20 years

From left: Anthony Chan, Sylvia Polk, and Teresa Alvarez-Sanchez.



## 15 years

From left: Shawn Huey and Edgar Nepacena.

Photos by John Storey

## 45 Years

Aird, James  
Ambeau, Donna M  
Calleros, Alfred D  
Hunter, Debora A

## 40 Years

Bruce, Kenneth  
Budesilich, Edward  
Cato Jr., Charles  
Chu, Albert C  
Henry, Linda J  
Hernandez, Robert J  
Hughes, Jason A  
Levine, Jewell  
Macaluso, Michael L  
Martinez, Anthony  
Mazzanti, Debra  
Ong, Jeffrey D  
Rosenstrauch, Chris  
Simmons, Bradford  
Steemers, Gerhard J  
Villa, Ruben  
Villegas, John  
Webster, J Harlan  
Yanez, Lupe

## 35 Years

Abney, Charlotte  
Alexander, Melissa A  
Barnes, Ira D  
Baum, James D  
Bertel, Richard  
Boyle, Charles J  
Brown, Larry L  
Caldwell, Ronnie  
Cervantez-Dela, Roseann  
Chetcuti, May C  
Chhabra, Surinder  
Cisneros, Tony A  
Cochnauer, Brett  
Cueva, Angel A  
Daly, Michael P  
Daniel, Peggy L  
Day, Michael F  
De Lima, Steven D  
Drozda, Joseph R  
Eichhorn, Gregg A  
Ellyson, Philip  
Elmquist, Emery A  
Franks, Adrienne  
Gallegos, Theodore  
Gorman, Dan J  
Hogan, Loretta J  
Hough, Douglas J  
Kwan, Regina F  
Lovett, Evelyn Y  
Lyons, Birdie E  
McCarthy, Michael W  
McGee Jr., Arthur  
Menges, Keith A  
Mitchell, Pamela R  
Moore, Dane R  
Moss, Daniel L  
Neufeld, Paul W  
Oler, Michael E  
Oren, William C  
Osterlund, Joseph C  
Perales, Mark A  
Perez, Gabe A  
Pfennig, Charles E  
Phillips, Chris  
Pine, Samuel J  
Piva, Gary J  
Ray, Larry D  
Rego, James J  
Riccobuono, Glen A  
Robertson, Christine  
Rodrigues, Lee R  
Ross, Thomas L  
Roybal, Mardo J  
Sagote, Jacquelin  
Santos Jr., Roger  
Serna, Raymond A  
Shuck, Matthew J  
Singh, Avinash J  
Smith, Anthony  
Smith, Glen A  
Thompson, Tenola J  
Trout, Harry A  
Vieira, David M  
Walko, Michael P  
Wightman, Spencer E  
Williams, Kenneth L  
Wing Jr., William S  
Wong, Carlena L  
Zapanta, Luis K

## 30 Years

Abarca, Olga V  
Allee, Clifford  
Araquistain, Ignacio  
Backman, Timothy D  
Bastiaans, Ronald L  
Bath, Raymond J  
Berry Jr., William R  
Blacker, Paul W  
Blacker, Russell E  
Bogan, Richard M  
Brown, Darren F  
Busby Jr., Jerry F  
Camins, Rodolfo B  
Caviness, Patricia  
Center, Keith L  
Chaney, Lloyd H  
Cole, Michael C  
Coronado, Carlos  
Crespo, Ernesto A  
Daniel, Tim J  
Davis, Malone  
De Graef, Timothy J  
Decosta, Dave G  
Delmundo, Ramon L  
Dickinson, John E  
Diebner, Douglas A  
Disbrow, Deborah L  
Drennon, Carl W  
Durant, Davey C  
Durant, Glenn A  
Espindola, Mike W  
Fong, Terry L  
Forester Jr., Jimmie L  
Foster, Jayne L  
Franco, Richard  
Gasparro, Mauro F  
George, James M  
Hambrick, Gary M  
Hart, Robert T  
Hayes, Gerri D  
Hernandez, Gerald D  
Hill, Marlon D  
Ho, Francis P  
Honrada, Minerva N  
Kahoonei, Gary K  
Kemp, Edward  
Kidd, Gilbert C  
Kiley, Karen  
Killough, Rick L  
Kinder, Ray J  
Kinman, Ken J  
Kliwer, James P  
Knowlton, Marianne  
Koehn, William E  
Kumpanao, Tinagone  
Lavinger, Barbara A  
Lewis, Bruce D  
Llamas, Ramon T  
Llanda, Raul T  
Llave, Gaylord D  
Lloyd, Gary  
Logaburn, Greg D  
Longo, John H  
Lorenzi-Leandro, Lorie  
Macias, Scott G  
Mackin, Paul M  
Martinez, Laura A  
Mayo, Randy K  
McRory, James W  
McBride, Robert S  
McCoy, Esther L  
Mendoza, Steven A  
Miller, Charles R  
Moore, Ted A  
Murphy, Brendan M  
Nielsen, Susan A  
O'Byrne, Daniel P  
Ong, David A  
Pagan, William R  
Patron, Ino M  
Perez, Victor D  
Pezzola, Phillip J  
Puefua, Nili S  
Quesada, Ruben S  
Ray, Carey D  
Raygoza, Norma  
Reliford, Joey  
Revelo, Jose E  
Robertson, Michael R  
Sanchez, Gilberto  
Sarti, David J  
Sensmeier, Kirk J  
Smith, Steven J  
Swain, Mike  
Thompson, Edward A  
Tom, Johnnie F  
Tonne, Ted J

Traylor, Burdette  
Urbin, Fredric K  
Valencerina, Ariel R  
Vallejos, Gigi S  
Vigars, John W  
Villalobos, Chris J  
Walda, Steven T  
Warren, Robert E  
Womble, Gordon R

## 25 Years

Byrd, Paul A  
Clark, Carmelita S  
Cooley, Donald S  
Evans, Maurice E  
Hidalgo, Christopher  
Hong, May  
Johnson, Ellis L  
Kenney, Robby A  
Meeker, James A  
Narez, Greg  
Nolasco, Steve R  
Rasmussen, Daniel M  
Reed, Kevin A  
Sherfield, James A  
Taylor, John  
Williams, Ton

## 20 Years

Alvarez-Sanchez, Teresa  
Chan, Anthony C  
Curry, Darrell B  
Davis, Gregory M  
Docto, Arthur T  
Guerrero, Kirk F  
James, Steven W  
Placencia, Donovan R  
Polk, Sylvia C  
Trickel, James E

## 15 Years

Alcazar, Miguel  
Ballesteros, Abel  
Campos, Xavier F  
Cardenas, Joel  
Chavez, Narciso H  
Escobar, Jose M  
Familiara, Ricardo B  
Gatan, Neil A  
Huey, Shawn D  
Jackson, Darrell  
Johnson Jr., Theodis R  
Kaldunski, Chris  
Nepacena, Edgar A  
Ortega, Juan H  
Parker, Bennie W  
Robles, Victor M  
Rodriguez, Edwin A  
Velasco, Daryl E  
Watson, Christopher

## 10 Years

Alvarez, Juan M  
Aquitania, Gerald N  
Auzenne, Georgianna  
Avila, Francisco I  
Bailey, Anjuland D  
Barabad, Jonathan M  
Bennett, David M  
Brown, Linda D  
Canada, Patrick J  
Chism, Michael E  
Cooper Jr, Warren  
Cramer, Christopher  
Dale, Stephen G  
D'andrea, Brian L  
De Long, Gene H  
Dudley, Daryl P  
Earl, David E  
Faletti Jr., Curtis R  
Fife, Robert J  
Figaroa, Joshua C  
Forcier, Patrick E  
Gledhill, Nicholas R  
Graser, Anthony M  
Greer, Jeffrey W  
Handley, Richard G  
Haywood, Jason M  
Hilton, Rodney L  
Hummel, Daniel A  
Ingersol, Steve L  
Jacob, Ariel J  
Jefferies, Danny E  
Jenson, Ryan  
Jones, Robert S  
La Macchia, Mario V  
Lee, Felicia A  
Lilley, Joseph

Longo, Caleb E  
Martin, Jason S  
Martinez, Frank J  
Matlock, Brad R  
McCoy, David A  
McLemore, Kevin E  
Mean, Robert  
Morales, Margarito  
Moretti, Roberta J  
Mun, Devin N  
Ovalle, Moses G  
Pagan, Richard A  
Pharris, Brad K  
Pittson, Walter S  
Pruitt, Nicole C  
Ramirez, Phillip P  
Records, Eric P  
Regan, Mark A  
Roesler, Michelle L  
Rubio, Adolph P  
Rupe, Rebecca S  
Ryan, Matthew J  
Santos, Roger K  
Sereni, Jeffrey T  
Simien, Carol L  
Smith, Khalid  
Tadena Jr., James D  
Teisseire, Steve E  
Thude', Omar  
Trumbo, Maurice A  
Villalobos, Carlos A  
Wachtel, Geory R  
Wagner, Rob S  
Washington, Terrus  
Wells, Patrice A  
Wilkins, Leslie (Leigh)  
Wings, Leman F  
Yi, Hank H

## 5 Years

Adams, Steve L  
Allison, Tommy L  
Barnard, Glen  
Brooke, Stephen T  
Cary, Johnathon F  
Cheshier, Shaun M  
Cuellar Jr, John S  
Davis, Roderick L  
Duran, Efrain  
Erazo, Hector H  
Estrada-Guzman, Jose  
Favela, Jesus M  
Franke, Cortland E  
Gallon, Tatiana P  
Gomez, Jonathan M  
Garcia-Verduzco, Jose  
Gatewood, Alvin J  
Hankins, Adam M  
Haroon, Muhammed  
Haywood, Brian D  
Herrera, Jimmy A  
Herrera, Rosendo M  
Hudson, Delano S  
Jennings, Benjamin A  
Jimenez, Gabriel A  
Laita, Theresa N  
Lauritsen, Nicholas P  
Lawson, Valerie M  
Leal Huerta, Jose M  
Lin, Austin  
Lofton, Robert E  
Lutter, Andrew L  
Martinez, Michael A  
McNelis, Dennis E  
Monroe, Jon M  
Moore, Josh D  
Morataya, Edwin R  
Murdoch, Jeremy B  
Murphy, Jason A  
Navarro-Silva Sr, Arturo  
Nicholson, Bryan C  
Ockrassa, Donald P  
Power, Barney E  
Ramirez, Moises  
Rodota, Brandon M  
Rodriguez, Abimael  
Ross, Fred G  
Rubio, Albert  
Sandoval, Kyle L  
Silva-Fajardo, Cain  
Solorio-Sanchez, Jose  
Tavare, Matt  
Taylor, Kenneth  
Tulchinsky, Aaron  
Villanueva, Ernesto A  
Walsh, Deborah A  
Watkins, Michael A  
Wegner, Jay N  
Whalen, Lei Lani  
Wiltens, Philip P  
Yiannakopoulos, Vasi  
Zuniga, Johnny

# On track

Union Pacific is modernizing its communications equipment and in early June IBEW 1245 members helped keep the project on track with a transformer change-out on the outskirts of Reno.

The railroad's new equipment will require more power, says NV Energy Foreman Paul Wiles, a 23-year member of IBEW 1245. "The transformer wasn't large enough so we have to change it, from a 5 kv to a 25 kv."

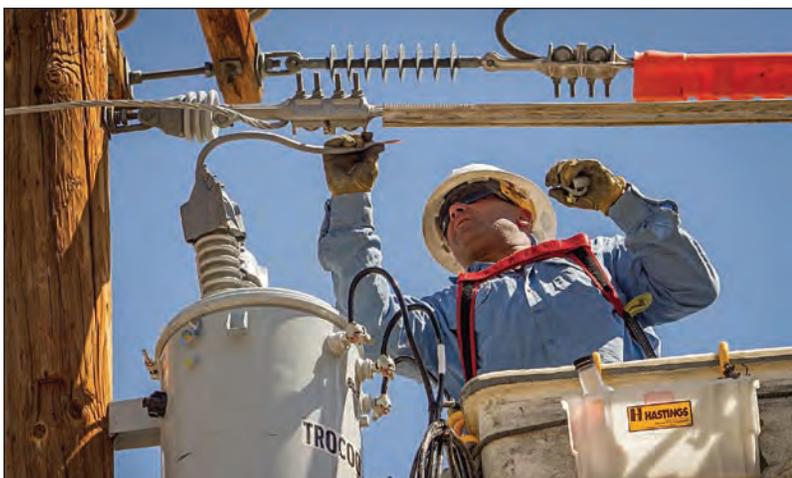
Checking the equipment is an important part of the job. They "ring out" the transformer at the warehouse to make sure it's in good condition, then check the voltage again in the field to make sure it hasn't been damaged during transportation to the jobsite. "We just need to make sure the transformer is good before energizing it for the customer," explains Wiles.

Safety is the top priority, even when performing routine work like this. Besides the usual electrical and

Photos by John Storey



On the job to upgrade a transformer to deliver power to Union Pacific railroad are, from left: Jared Dillard, Paul Wiles, and Jonathan Ramsdell.



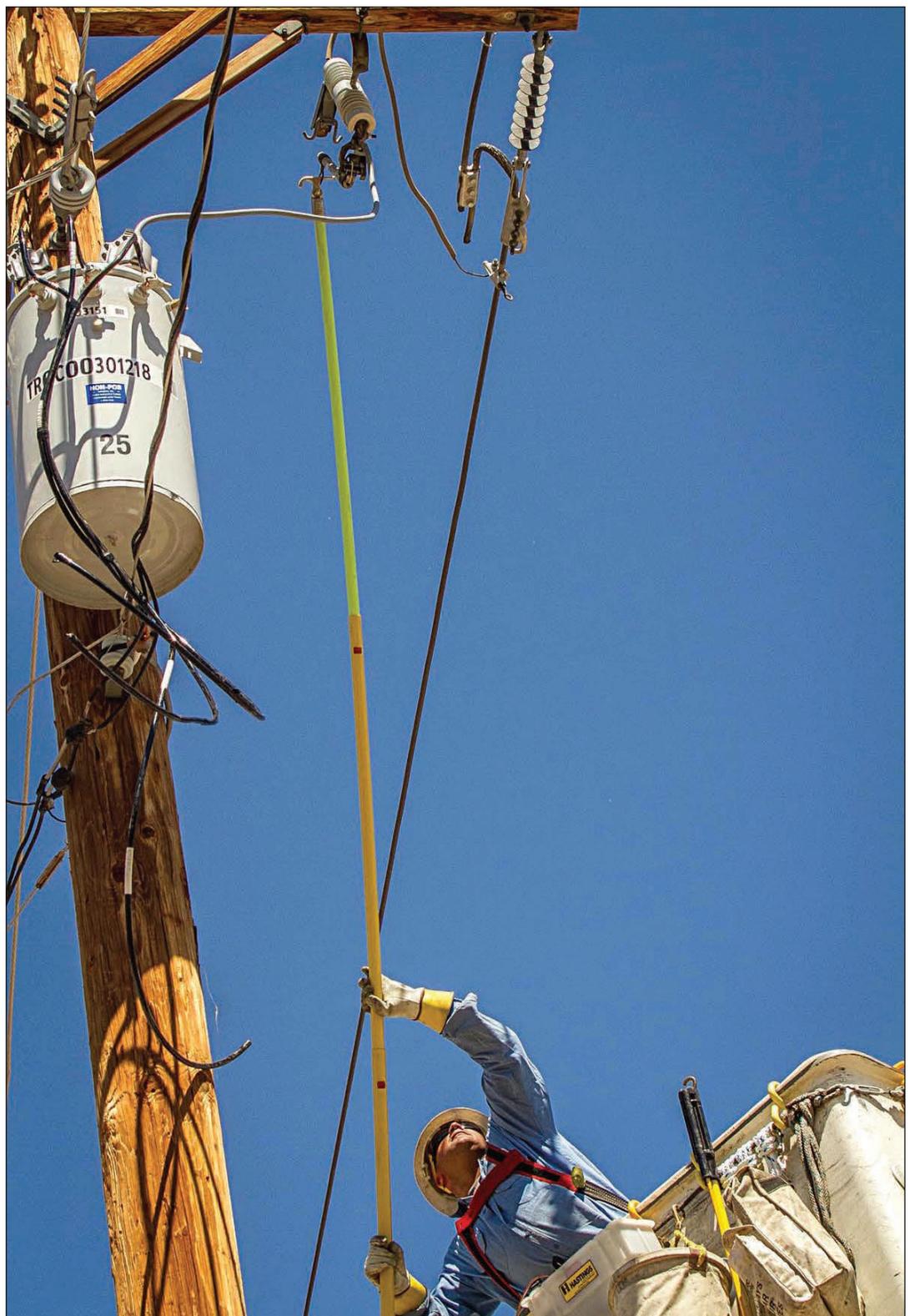
Apprentice Lineman Jered Dillard hooks up the transformer.



Jonathan Ramsdell, left, and Jered Dillard closing in, picking up load.



Jonathan Ramsdell and Jered Dillard hook up the customer's service under the close eye of Foreman Paul Wiles.



Jered Dillard.



Union Pacific needed the transformer upgrade in order to better communicate with its trains.

falling hazards, there are rattlesnakes to consider in terrain like this. And of course, you have to keep an eye out for passing trains.

“We have our tailboard. We discuss the known safety issues we see, what circuit we’re on. We discuss about covering (energized conductors) so we can encroach

a little closer to the line,” says Wiles. And a second tailboard might be conducted if the crew encounters something unexpected in the course of the work.

Working with Wiles on the change-out are Lineman Jared Dillard, a 9-year IBEW member, and Apprentice Lineman Jonathan Ramsdell, a 5-year IBEW member.

*Besides the usual electrical and falling hazards, there are rattlesnakes to consider in terrain like this.*



Journeyman Lineman Jonathan Ramsdell hooks up the transformer.

Utility Reporter



Paul Wiles



Jared Dillard



Jonathan Ramsdell



# Reno

May 16, 2014



## 40 Years

Receiving 40-year awards are, front row from left, Chris McGowan and Smiley Stahl. Back row, from left: Harry Bloomdale Jr., Guy Lindley, and Tom Bird (T-Bird).



## 45 Years

Longtime union activist Marianne Philipenko receives 45-year award from Business Reps Randy Osborn, left, and Pat Waite.

Photos by John Storey



## 35 Years

Front row, from left: Steven Urrutia and Dennis Delano. Back row, from left: Henry Myers, Darel Epper and Michael Coli.



## 30 Years

Front row, from left: Susan Camara and Franklin "Chip" Chadwick. Back row, from left: Kurt Welsh, David Fruhwirth, and Cirisostom Serrano.

*Congratulations on your service!*



## 15 Years

From left: Justin Pinochi and Casey Kelley.



## 20 Years

From left: William Cook, Sharleen Allard, and Lance Smith.



## 10 and 5 Years

Front row, from left: Bryan Reger and Kim Boldi. Back row, from left: John Dyer Ryan Allison (5 year), Samson Wilson.

# HONOREES

## 45 Years

Fuetsch, Stephen J  
Philipenko, Marianne

## 40 Years

Bird, Thomas J  
Bloomdale Jr., Harry  
Daft, Greg  
Delcarlo, Vincent  
Donahoe, Joseph  
Holland, Ray E  
Hubbard, Steven  
Lindley, Guy R  
Reger, Jan  
Stahl, Percy

## 35 Years

Bates, Greg

## 40 Years

Chisum, Micheal L  
Coli, Michael W  
Delano, Dennis P  
Epper, Darel L  
Greco, David E  
Grimm, Michael V  
Halliburton, Michael M  
Myers, Henry  
Richardson, Jim C  
Ries, Paul F  
Sedberry, Larry M  
Shay, Ronald  
Urrutia, Steven G  
Worley, Alan L

## 30 Years

Camara, Susan  
Chadwick, Franklin S  
Falanga, Michael A

Fruhwirth, David L  
Gross, Reto M  
Lynn, Jeffrey C  
Soukup, Lee  
Spaulding, Mark S  
Turk, Jeffrey L  
Welsh, Kurt G

## 25 Years

Gordon, James C  
Retterath, Richard J  
Wilson, Matthew G

## 20 Years

Allard, Sharleen I  
Anders, Mark A  
Boday, Craig W  
Boldi, Mark S  
Clark, Michael  
Cook Jr., William A  
Espinoza, Jerry M  
Hill Jr., James M

Kennedy, Michael J  
Lee, Tammy R  
Lopez, Trinidad J  
Manke, Ken W  
Matthews, Joe  
Peterson, Robert A  
Rose, Carl W  
Smith, Lance W

## 15 Years

Baker, Steven C  
Bristol, Brett D  
Brown, Dave M  
Carrothers, Kenneth G  
Clarke, Robert D  
Dominguez, Richard C  
Ercolin, Ralph H  
Garner, Michael B  
Hardy, Wesley G  
Henriod, Jeff L  
Huntington, Aron  
Kader, David D  
Keele, Jeremy P

Kelley, Casey  
Maddox, Daniel L  
Menesini, Randy E  
Ostrander, Glenn M  
Overholt, Gary L  
Pinochi, Justin M  
Ralston, Earl B  
Taylor Jr., Jim K  
Tow, Jason R  
Van Dyne, Anna M  
Yates, James G

## 10 Years

Ayala, Veronica  
Barden, David B  
Bare, Tim L  
Blandino, Cesar A  
Boldi, Kim M  
Carr, Mitchell S  
Catudan, Eden A  
Cummings, Matthew R  
Dillard, Jared M  
Dyer, John J

Green, Samuel O  
Huttman, Ryan H  
Jones, Paul D  
Kindle, Jesse R  
Knight, Eric M  
Kohlman, Richard S  
Mason, Jennifer M  
Maston, Brian J  
McIntyre II, Neal E  
Mehler, Mark A  
Mize, Kimberly M  
Morris, Ryan D  
O'Neil, David  
Patel-Taylor, Heena J  
Quilici, Jennifer R  
Reger, Bryan  
Schiavone, Kristen M  
Sherman, Bryan A  
Smith, Earl A  
Tanzi, Dominic J  
Williams, Jeramie L  
Wilson, Jared P  
Wilson, Samson L

## 5 Years

Allison, Ryan  
Bartels, Rick S  
Billings, Peter  
Cortez, Rodolfo  
Davis, Kurtis D  
Faust, Ronald A  
Hicks, Samuel  
Howald, Brad J  
McCoy, Blake S  
Meade, Rhyann C  
Milligan, Michael A  
Monsegue, Andre D  
Oliver, Richard A  
Parks, Jeremy G  
Parra, Miles A  
Ragsdale, Calvin L  
Sandoval, Amanda G  
Shultz, Cameron L  
Wickizer, Greg A

# Sunoptics Workers Secure Historic First Contract

After several months at the bargaining table, IBEW 1245 members at Sunoptics have succeeded in securing their very first union contract. The workers voted on Sept. 9 to approve the new two-year contract, which contains long-overdue wage increases, lump sum payments and many new and improved benefits that the workers have never had before.

Most Sunoptics employees had not seen a raise in 5 years, so for them, wages were the top priority. Under the new contract, all Sunoptics workers will see a wage increase, lump sum payment or both over the next two years. Associates currently at the starting wage of \$12.50 will receive a 4% wage increase the first year, and another 4% wage increase the second year, bringing their total wage up to \$13.52.

All other associates who are currently earning less than the contract wage

rate will receive a wage increase of 3% the first year and an additional 2% the second year to bring them up to contract wage rate. Employees who are over the contract wage rate in the first and/or second year will receive a lump sum payment of 2% of annual base pay each year.

In addition to the wages, the employees will be getting two additional holidays and improved language regarding “bank hours” that will enable them to carry over and sell back bank hours from the current rate of \$10 to up to \$17.

The new contract ensures that workers with seniority will have the protections and benefits they’ve earned when it comes to job bidding, layoff/demotion, promotions, rebids and shift selection. And for the first time, the workers have an official grievance procedure, including legal binding arbitration and full-time representation from shop

stewards, business reps and IBEW 1245 attorneys.

The Sunoptics employees narrowly rejected the first contract offer (36-28) in late July, but the bargaining team — comprised of IBEW staffers Ray Thomas and Cruz Serna, along with Sunoptics workers Todd Davis, Chris Hanh, Mauricio Centeno and Pamela Pendleton — worked nonstop to get a better offer for these new members. The final, member-approved version of the contract passed with overwhelming support by a vote of 62-7.

“The feedback we got from the employees was very positive,” said

Serna, the IBEW 1245 business representative for the Sunoptics workers. “They acknowledge the major changes and improvements to their working conditions, and even though they did not get all of the wages they had hoped for, what is more important right now is to have a contract in place and to look forward to the future.”



Sunoptics negotiators at work on contract proposals last spring.

## Hold the Pull Goes to Lompoc

Five members of the IBEW 1245 “Hold the Pull” committee recently travelled down to the City of Lompoc to provide the Lompoc lineworkers, who voted to join IBEW 1245 just last year, with an impactful training on the union’s “Hold the Pull” peer-to-peer safety initiative and the life-or-death importance of staying safe on the job.

“The City of Lompoc Line Gang would like to sincerely thank the ‘Hold the Pull’ committee for coming down to Lompoc. It was a great presentation and outstanding personal testimony that reminded all of us of the importance of safety,” said Lompoc Shop Steward and lineman Jaime Tinoco. “It was emotional and direct. We all walked away with the understanding that we all are humans,

and that our unsafe actions affect everyone around us, family, friends and our coworkers. We hope that we can change all of our old bad habits that directly affect everyone around us, and we hope that we can continue this type of training in the future.”

“Hold the Pull” committee members in attendance included “Big” Casey Kelley from Liberty Energy, Pete Sandoval and Scott Barnes from PG&E Fresno, Tyler Davidson from PG&E Woodland and John Kent, retired PG&E lineman. They were joined by two reps from IBEW 77, John Cunningham and Mike Webber, who are in the process of starting a similar safety program at their own local.



## Hold the Pull Goes to SeaTac, Visits “Seattle Troll”

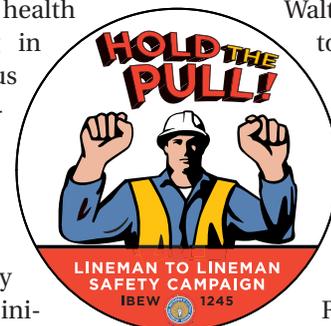
IBEW 1245’s innovative peer-to-peer safety initiative has drastically improved workplace safety and health for members working in exceptionally hazardous lines of work. The program has proven to be so successful that now other locals are interested in developing their own peer-safety programs based on the initiative that Local 1245 has developed.

Local 77 in SeaTac, Washington is one of the first locals to express interest in building a similar peer program, and the Local 1245 Safety Committee is already working to help our sister local make that program a reality. Five members of the Local 1245 Hold the Pull safety committee recently attended an informational meeting with five members of IBEW Local 77 in SeaTac in order to help them think through and develop their own peer-to-peer safety initiative modeled on Local 1245’s program.

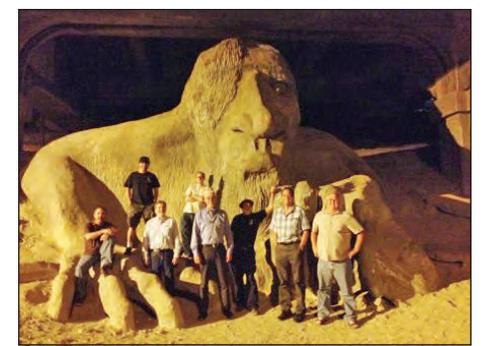
Local 77 Business Manager Lou Walter asked Local 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell to send peer members to help Local 77 with three

key goals: develop its own peer leadership program, identify means to communicate the core safety message and grow the peer network. “The meeting exceeded my expectations,” Brother Walter said, “and I would like to invite Hold the Pull back once we get this rolling.”

Hold the Pull members who attended were John Kent, Tyler Davidson, Dan Mayo, Fred Aboud and business representative Rich Lane. Business Representative Julius Matthew from IBEW Local 1547 in Anchorage, Alaska also attended, hoping to start a peer program at his local. In addition to the meeting, the group also had the opportunity to tour the Seattle waterfront and visit the infamous Washington Memorial Bridge Troll, who keeps guard under the Seattle Lake Washington span.



Members of the IBEW 1245 Hold the Pull committee with lineworkers from the City of Lompoc.



## “Control the Pressure” Expands its Reach

IBEW 1245’s “Control the Pressure” Committee has seen steady growth this year. The peer-to-peer safety program for gas workers has added nine new stew-

ards and ten new members to the steering committee, for a total of 35 safety stewards and 45 members in the program. The committee is well on its way to meeting its overall goal of having at least one safety steward in every yard.

Plans are under way to put “Control the Pressure” committee members

on the road again to different work areas in order to spread their message about the life-saving peer safety program. The committee members and safety stewards plan to deliver their presentation at as many gas safety kick-off events as possible in 2015.

—All peer safety reports are by IBEW 1245 Safety Rep Rich Lane.



# SERVICE AWARDS

**Stockton**  
March 28, 2014

*Congratulations on your service!*



## 40 Years

Executive Board member Anna Bayless-Martinez and Treasurer Cecelia De La Torre give 40-year award to Terry Bates, standing, and to Manuel Chavez, seated left, and Gary Andona.

Photos by John Storey



## 40 Years

Front row, from left: Richard Menor Sr., Marla See, and Jim Pacheco. Back row, from left: Ted Quijalvo, (Bayless-Martinez), Ronald Genuit, and (De La Torre).



## 35 Years

Front row, from left: John Takahashi, and Steve Cooper. Back row, from left: Stephen Prato, Timothy Bunney, and Robert Ramos.

# HONOREES

## 50 Years

Granlees, Steve E

## 45 Years

Meyer, John A

## 40 Years

Andona, Gary L  
Bates, Terry  
Blankenship, Calvin T  
Chavez, Manuel V  
Genuit, Ronald  
Giacosa, Michael  
Gonzales, Andy  
Jensen, David P  
Menor Sr, Richard  
Pacheco, Jim D  
Quijalvo, Ted C  
Santillanes, George  
See, Marla K

## 35 Years

Attaway, Deborah L  
Brock, Raylon E  
Bunn, Michael N  
Bunney, Timothy M  
Changaris, Louis G  
Chavez, Jorge V  
Cooper, Steve M  
Craig III, Charles C  
Crump, Wayne A  
Durston, David W  
Gouveia, Dennis F  
Henson, Phillip L  
Imperial, Albert  
Lapenna, Joseph N  
Lyons, Patricia  
Parks, Gary O  
Peirano, Mike J  
Prato, Stephen D  
Ramos, Robert S  
Takahashi, John B  
Van Fleet, Aaron R  
Wooten, Robert J  
Zaich, Paul D

## 30 Years

Allen, Charles E  
Alonzo-Gonzalez,  
Amelia J  
Apodaca, Andre R  
Armstrong, Dennis M  
Avalos, Deena D  
Belaski, William W  
Bell, David M

Brake, Darald D  
Colby, David  
Cosmero, Robert V  
Crandall, Brett C  
Darby Jr., Daniel B  
Dobler, Louie R  
Doshas, Matt W  
Estes, Thomas B  
Fitzpatrick, Edward W  
Fung, Kenneth M  
Gooch, Sharon J  
Griffith, Terry A  
Grunloh, Brian T  
Hayes, James D  
Helzer, Richard L  
Imler, Robert E  
Jimenez, Efren L  
Johnson, Vicki L  
Kelly, Daniel J  
Kinard, Johnnie L  
Kunz, Eric W  
Lee Jr., James L  
Martin, Bret A  
Martine, John R  
Mattos, Richard A  
McCarten, Sean  
McKinnon, Sean G  
McNeill, George C  
Medina, Melanie L  
Mize, Robert S  
Monti, Frank B  
Newbill, Steve L  
Newsome, Michael P  
Peirano, Maria C  
Phillips, Gary E  
Pierce, David J  
Puou, Thomas A  
Quattro, Jim D  
Ratfield, Cris T  
Rieb, Garrett K  
Salaiz, Dennis M  
Sargent, Lisa M  
Schmidt, Curtis  
Shipley, Don M  
Sierras, Jessie  
Soto Jr., Benjamin  
Spoonhour, Theresa  
Thien, John  
Trujillo, Manuel E  
Vela, Mark A  
Willett, Richard  
Windschitl, Patrick P  
Worley, Daniel R

## 25 Years

Barajas, Jorge A  
Barragan, Alfredo M

Ceja, Francisco J  
Detmers, Richard L  
Fanucchi, Joe G  
Fernandez, Julian X  
Gonzalez, C Martin  
Granillo, Pablo I  
Kulik, William P  
Laskowski, Richard M  
Mendonza, Larry V  
Murillo, Richard  
Silveira, Don A  
Whitcotton, Tom S  
Whitney, Scott A

## 20 Years

Garner, Bryan L  
Hagins, Timothy B  
Herbert, Curtis J  
Hutchison, Larry L  
Johnson, Marvin A  
Nunnemaker, Vincent  
Rico, Martin L  
Romanazzi, Michael S

## 15 Years

Anderson, Richard D  
Brazil, Michael L  
Elias, Rosie L  
Farkas, Lee T  
Gonzalez, Rafael V  
Lopez, Uriel H  
Marin, Jose G  
Newman, Rhonda R  
Novinger, Patricia L  
Nunez, Jose M  
Rivera, Gonzalo V  
Rocksvold, Dustin W  
Romero, Jose L  
Townsend, Timothy J  
Word, Jason S  
Xiong, Chai

## 10 Years

Altadonna, Roger P  
Arreola, Elena  
Bagalayos, Pete J  
Bailey, Weston K  
Bashor, Robert S  
Berg, Ken D  
Boney, Ryan M  
Brake, Leslie C  
Burrow, Amy L  
Ceja, Veronica L  
Collins, Ean M  
Delatorre, Jorge G  
Dias, Barry M

Diaz, Mariano C  
Duncan, Lavonia L  
Dunn, Justin J  
Embry, Kristine B  
Fetz, Michael C  
Gillum, Joe E  
Gomez, Jose A  
Gonzalez, Hugo  
Goularte, Karen J  
Guerrero, Rosa  
Hale, Charles G  
Harden, Corey C  
Hardman, Kristofer T  
Harper, Christy R  
Hasten, Joseph M  
Hernandez, Leonardo  
Higgins, Robert N  
Huber, Richard J  
Hussain, Shabana  
Johnson, Robert M  
Jones, Carlton L  
Kramer, Danielle M  
Lee, James  
Lehnertz, Ricky  
Leyva, Frank P  
Lo, Simon (Siu Chau)  
Lynn, Susan L  
Mace, Eugene J  
Macedo, Matthew J  
McCartney, Mark C  
McIntire, Joseph B  
Miller, Jennifer M  
Moore, Brian T  
Moreno, Sabin A  
Mount, Russ T  
Orozco, David M  
Orozco, Francisco  
Otero, Melissa E  
Palacio, Adeline J  
Quetot, Thomas F  
Ramos, Faustino A  
Relich, Ann A  
Roux, Brandon J  
Ruiz, Lupe M  
Salinas, Viviana V  
Samaniego, Thomas J  
San Juan, Michael A  
Stockwell, Jeffrey J  
Strauch, Jason M  
Tuck, Matt A  
Valenzuela, Laura L  
Velazquez, Desiree M  
Ward, David A  
White, Darrell M  
Wilbor, Bonnie J  
Wilkins, Leslie (Leigh)  
Yerby, Craig M  
Zandarski, Brian L

## 5 Years

Alcantor, Rodney C  
Anderson, Aron F  
Arif, Muhammad  
Bravo, Jose L  
Breaux, Paul T  
Castellanos, Oscar W  
Dean, Abdul S  
Devlin, Patrick C  
Dimmett, Isaac D  
Doige, David  
Furr-Evans, Lakicia M  
Fussell, Jack L  
Garcia, Rosario A  
Garner, Debbie D  
Goodwin, Mark J  
Guajardo, Michael A  
Guardado, Francisco  
Guerrero, Norma M  
Guerrero, Preeti K  
Guzman-Moreno,  
Claudio M  
Ha, Quyen  
Herbeck, Theresa A  
Holmes, Zeta J  
Lara, Santos  
Linares, Victor M  
Lindblom, John R  
Lopez, Mary Jane  
Martinez, Angel L  
McDaniel,  
Christopher M  
McDonald, Andrew M  
Mendez, Manuel  
Mendoza, Benito  
Morquecho, Jennifer  
O'Brien, Edward J  
Olivares, David  
Orcutt, Joseph R  
Pacheco, Wayne T  
Padgett, Wesley K  
Riley, Denver Cyrus  
Rivera, Eduardo  
Romero Jr, Jose E  
Romero, Daniel  
Ryun, Michael J  
Sanders, Preston A  
Scherer, Linda S  
Shafe, Michael L  
Silva, Cindy L  
Smith, Mitchell L  
Stewart, David J  
Sweeny, Ryan A  
Thurston, Michael  
Tibon, Leah N  
Varela, Erick  
Wirstlin, Jason C  
Worley, Brian A



## 30 Years

Front row, from left: Kenneth Fung, Amelia Alonzo-Gonzalez, and Richard Helzer. Back row, from left: Mike Newsome, Robert Imler, and William Belaski.



**30 Years** Front row, from left: Cris Ratfield, Curtis Schmidt, and Manuel Trujillo. Back row, from left: Vicki Johnson, Mark Vela, and Sean McKinnon.



# Ukiah

April 12, 2014



## 30 Years

Front row, from left: Paul Pearson and Neil Orr, Jr. Back row, from left: David Pizzo, Sonny Hollesen, and Larry Giese.



## 45 Years

Clifford Spaletta, left, receives 45-year award from Business Rep Sonny Hollesen.

Photos by John Storey

*Congratulations on your service!*

# HONOREES

Young, Harold R

## 25 Years

Edens, Martin A  
Garcia, Daniel M

## 15 Years

Markowski, Jason A

## 10 Years

Ortega, Francisco  
Pope, Jennifer M  
Sanchez, Erick A

## 5 Years

Benner, Michael F  
Breedon, Brandon L  
Garcia, Jorge  
Hill, William L  
O'Brien, James P  
Pickersgill, Howard L

## 45 Years

Spaletta, Clifford  
Williams, Mike

## 40 Years

Devlin, Patrick J  
Howe, Samuel P

## 35 Years

Dooley, Raymond A  
Hutcheson, Alton B  
Johns, Michael L  
Landers Jr., Odell B  
Morrison, Kenneth W  
Myers III, Sidney G

## 30 Years

Banfill, Ray G

Bilbro, Kirk R  
Breci, Anthony L  
Dilley, Donald J  
Elliott, Mike C  
Evans, Michael D  
Giese, Larry L  
Harms, Erik R  
Kelly, James W  
Kenney, Steve P  
La Delle, Monte R  
Lazarevich, Paul N  
Markarian, Alan D  
Meyer, Marvin R  
Nutt, Donald R  
Orr Jr., Neil F  
Pearson, Paul J  
Pizzo, David J  
Romelli, Michael A  
Ross, Terrance  
Wells, Thomas J



## 10 Years

Francisco Ortega



## 5 years

Michael Benner

## Stockton Service Awards, from page 32



**30 Years** Front row, from left: Dennis Armstrong, Frank Monti, and James Lee. Back row, from left: Dan Darby, Robert Mize, and Terry Griffith.



**25 Years** Front row, from left: Martin Gonzalez, Pablo Granillo, and Richard Murillo. Back row, from left: Francisco Ceja, Scott Whitney, and William Kulik.



**15 Years** From left: Chai Xiong and Jose Marin.



**10 Years** From left: Lupe Ruiz, Ann Relich, and Desiree Velazquez.



**10 Years** Front row, from left: Faustino Ramos, and Eugene Mace. Back row, from left: Brandon Roux, Michael San Juan.



**5 Years** Front row, from left: Diana Padilla, Erick Varela, and Preeti Guerrero. Back row, from left: Quyen Ha, and Benito Mendoza.



# IBEW 9th District Softball Tournament

## Local 1245 keeps it close

Story and photos by Eric Wolfe

IBEW 1245 came on strong, scoring six runs in the early innings and putting quite a scare in their opponents by scoring another half-dozen or so in their last at-bats.

But a barrage of hits by IBEW 340 in the middle innings built an insurmountable lead, and the IBEW 1245 players had to settle for a weekend of fun in the sun but no bragging rights.

The IBEW 1245 team, consisting of members working for PG&E out of Stockton, Oakdale, Fremont and Newman, played three games on July 25, the first day of the 18th Annual IBEW Ninth District Softball Tournament.

“This is always a blast. We always have fun,” said Mark Develviss. “Two were pretty close. We lost them in the last inning.”

The other game on Saturday, well, the less said about that the better.

But on Sunday the team looked like champs, exploding for a lot of unanswered runs early on, and a slick defensive effort that kept home plate out of their opponents’ reach—for a while, anyway.

Sean Giangregorio, a seven-year member of IBEW 1245 who served as catcher and chief cheerleader for the team, said they took their losses philosophically.

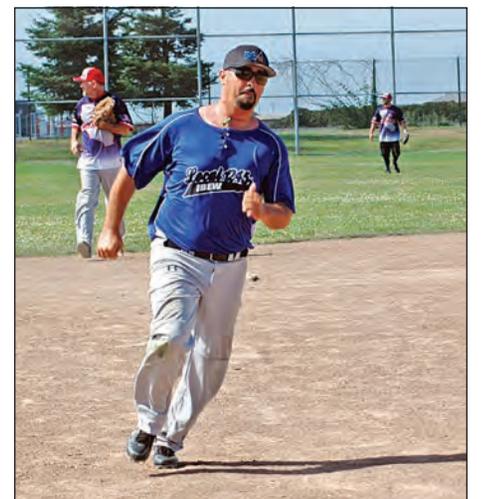
“These guys know it’s softball. They just go out and enjoy the game.”

Justin Beckman, just finishing his first year at PG&E, was on the mound for IBEW 1245. His delivery looked sharp and well-practiced, as you would expect from someone whose email address includes the word “baseball.”

Holding down first base was Kevin Gonzales, with Derek McNeill at second, Ryan Skelton at short, and Albert Escalante at third.

The outfield featured Carlos Villalobos in left, Victor Gully in left-center, Justin Dunn in right-center, and Frank Layva in right.

The tournament, hosted by IBEW 595 and played at Aiden Oliver Sports Park in Hayward, featured IBEW teams from all over California. Congratulations to all the teams for providing lots of hits and some exciting softball on a sunny weekend.



# IBEW 1245 victorious at Fishing Challenge



NV Energy troubleman Michael Falanga nabbed the biggest catch of the day, a 17-pound halibut

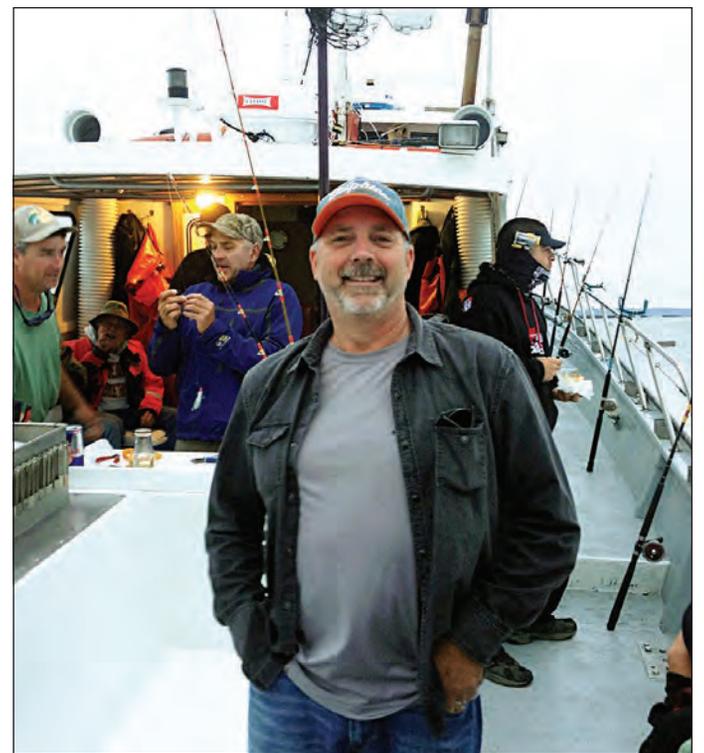
Earlier this year, IBEW 340's Sportsman's Club issued a "Fishing Challenge" to other Northern California IBEW locals, and on July 12, nearly two dozen anglers from IBEW 1245 joined the challenge at the Berkeley Marina.

It was a beautiful day to be out on the Pacific Ocean, and Local 1245 chartered the "New Easy Rider" as the union's vessel for the fishing challenge. The fish were definitely biting that day, and all of the IBEW members and their families who joined them had a wonderful time hauling in their

catches and spending time out on the water with one another.

Despite the fact that Local 340 had more anglers on their boat, Local 1245 still came out victorious at the end of the challenge. NV Energy troubleman Michael Falanga nabbed the biggest catch of the day, a 17-pound halibut, and 1245 Business Rep Abel Sanchez also had a big catch, a 15-pound halibut. These two big fish helped to put Local 1245 over the top.

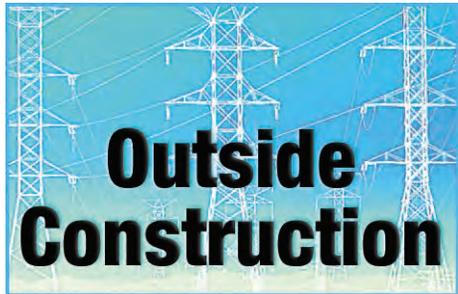
The Local 1245 anglers would like to thank the New Easy Rider Sport Fishing crew, and particularly deckhands Cooper and Eric, for making the fishing challenge fun, safe and exciting.



Lou Mennel was the IBEW 1245 point person for the fishing challenge

## Much compliance work by Ralph Armstrong

Work outlook hasn't changed much from the previous month with the exception of having several lineman calls going unfilled towards the end of August. There is plenty of construction work going on throughout the country and we believe most aren't waiting around for something to come open in our jurisdiction.



There will be quite a bit of compliance work which will involve isolating arrestors to their own ground wire. It is estimated to be

about two years' worth of work for several two-man service crews since the majority of the work will all be performed below the transformer and out of the primary zone.

We expect the work picture to remain the same for the remainder of this year and through the first part of 2015.

### CANUS and Cal Inc

Members at Canus Corp. and Cal Inc. voted overwhelmingly in favor of a 5-year extension of agreements—through May 31, 2020—covering Gas Inspector, Substation and Relay Test Technician (Specialist), Communication (Specialist) and Installers, Construction Coordinator/Inspector and Hydro Division Maintenance and Construction. At Canus, the vote was 64-8, and at Cal Inc, the vote was 40-4. The extension includes an annual wage increase of 1%-3%, which will be based on that year's Consumer Price Index. All other

terms and conditions of the agreement remain the same.

### Organizing

In the month of August we organized the following contractors:

CA Outside Line Construction Agreement:

- Steiner McBride Electric, Inc
- S.W. Administers Inc

Hydro Maintenance Agreement:

- Lester Enterprises
- JATC

We currently have 324 outside line apprentices registered in our JATC program.

- 45 apprentices are working out of Local 1245

- 242 are working out of 47
- 4 are working out of 396
- 15 are unemployed (33 are really unemployed - but 18 can't work)
- 31 apprentices have graduated to journeyman lineman
- 25 outside line apprentices were indentured in 2014

### 2014 Training Schedule & Special Events

- First Aid & CPR is the 2nd Saturday of every month at JATC Riverside and Sacramento facility
- October 4 – Soccer Tournament, Fairfield, CA
- October 11 – Golf Tournament, Vacaville, CA
- October 15-18, 2014 International Lineman Rodeo, Bonner Springs, KS

### OUT OF WORK BOOKS

as of August 27, 2014					
BOOK #					
L-1	15	CS-1	5	F-1	6
L-2	20	CS-2	6	F-2	1
L-3	1	CS-3	2	F-3	6
L-4	68				
		GM- 1	16	Sub-1	0
ES-1	7	GM- 2	11	Sub-2	1
ES-2	7	GM- 3	230	Sub-3	57
ES-3	9	GM- 4	258	Sub-4	4

### DISPATCH

	August 2014 (as of 8/27)	Total Calls YTD -2014
Lineman	65	667
Apprentice Lineman	5	103
Equipment Man	15	181
Groundman	69	551
Substation Tech	21	68
Fabricator Tech	17	133
Cable Splicer	1	29
	<b>193</b>	<b>1732</b>

### Close Calls, from page 23

**Casi fue un accidente**, viene de la página 23

cuñas. Utilizamos mi cuerda con una línea de tiro para colocarla en el árbol y ayudar. El árbol fue derribado sin problemas después de eso. ¡No tenían suficiente equipo para ejecutar el trabajo de manera segura!

### Jumped by Racoons?

We got sent to clear a large cypress tree from the primary lines. One of our climbers was thirty feet off the ground. When he reached into a crotch two racoons peaked out looking down at him. The climber came down the tree faster

than if he were to fall!

### ¿Asaltado por mapaches?

Nos enviaron a despejar un gran ciprés de las líneas primarias. Uno de nuestros escaladores estaba a 9 m (30 pies) de altura. Cuando llego a una horquilla, dos mapaches se asomaron para verlo. ¡El escalador bajó del árbol más rápido que si se hubiera caído!

### Crews Working Over/Under Primary

Two crews working in the same span, two younger foremen and two new climbers, one under primary lines and one over lines. Another crew stopped

operations to explain to crews the rules to not work over and under in the same span and their close call.

### Cuadrillas trabajando por encima y por debajo de la línea primaria

Dos cuadrillas trabajando en el mismo vano, dos jóvenes capataces y dos escaladores nuevos, uno por debajo de las líneas primarias y uno por encima de ellas. Otra cuadrilla detuvo las operaciones para explicarle a las cuadrillas las normas de no trabajar por debajo y por encima del mismo vano al mismo tiempo, y la posibilidad de que ocurra un accidente.

### Truck Almost Hit Boom

I was setting up traffic cones and signs. I went to go up in bucket and started to swing boom out and climber did not tell me a truck was coming. I saw it and moved boom back. Truck just missed my boom.

### Un camión casi choca con una pluma

Yo estaba colocando conos y señales de tráfico. Fui hacia una canasta y comencé a mover la pluma hacia afuera y el escalador no me dijo que venía un camión. Lo vi y moví la pluma hacia adentro. El camión casi chocó con mi pluma.

# California and Nevada Retiree Leaders Team Up

Retiree leaders from Nevada and California came together last week to discuss new ways to build up and improve IBEW 1245's retiree program. IBEW retiree group leaders and representatives from the California Alliance of Retired Americans (CARA) and the Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans (NARA) met in Reno for a



Bill Keating, Reno-Sparks Retiree Chapter

brainstorming session that they hope will pave the way towards a more rewarding and engaging retiree program. IBEW 1245's retiree program is widely known as one of the most robust union retiree groups in the country. Together with CARA and NARA, the retiree chapters provide useful resources and as-

sistance for seniors, while also fighting for issues that matter most to their survival, including combatting senior fraud and protecting Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. But maintaining the retiree program is increasingly more challenging, and requires more coordinated planning and strategies to draw newly retired members in, provide them

with the support they need, keep them active and transform them into retiree leaders. Currently, IBEW 1245 has nine retiree chapters that meet every month throughout California and Nevada, but the leaders of these chapters rarely have the occasion to come together in an of-

ficial capacity to discuss the program as a whole.

Despite their geographical and demographic differences, all the chapters are facing many of the same challenges: meeting attendance and member retention is low, communication is lacking, new member recruitment is a challenge and the current leaders of the groups aren't focused on finding and preparing successors to keep the program going strong in the future.

"Our goal is to collectively share ideas, create plans and open a dialogue about these issues. This discussion is really past due," said Tom "T" Bird, President of IBEW 1245's Yerington retiree chapter and President-Elect of NARA. "The one thing we have to remember is that a problem for one of our chapters or affiliated groups is a problem for all of us."

Seven retiree leaders – T-Bird, Ron Borst, Ken Rawles, Bill Keating, Sandra Draper, Bob Vieira and Rita Weisshaar – were in attendance, along with half



a dozen IBEW 1245 staffers and a few members of the Executive Board. The group plans to continue meeting regularly to come up with more tactics and strategies to strengthen and improve IBEW 1245's retiree program.

All retiree chapter meetings are open to IBEW 1245 retirees and their spouses, as well as soon-to-be-retirees and the spouses of active or deceased members. For meeting times and locations, visit [www.ibew1245.com/ibew-1245-retirees-club/](http://www.ibew1245.com/ibew-1245-retirees-club/). If you'd like to get involved in the retirees club or start a chapter in your area, contact Office Manager Tonya Alston at 707-452-2718.

## Nevada members/retirees on parade

On Monday Sept. 1, a group of Northern Nevada IBEW 1245 members and retirees marched in the Annual Virginia City Labor Day Parade. It was mentioned by the old timers that it was the largest crowd and participation in Virginia City's history.

The Nevada IBEW participants might have missed this year's event if it were not for Pat Waite, the IBEW 1245 Business Rep who made it hap-

pen. Retiree Rita Weisshaar filled out the application, and the team was able to not only participate but enjoy a wonderful barbeque served by leaders of Labor at the Virginia City Senior Center. The day also included civil war re-enactments with people dressed in period apparel who performed a mock shoot-out to boot.

Our group consisted of Ron Borst, Frank Istrice, David Thiem, Vicki Borst, Steve Urrutia, Shirley Skroch, Jeff Turk, Kirstin, Kelly Thiem, Executive Board member Tom Cornell, and myself. A great time was had by all who participated and we can't wait until next year to do it again; bigger and better than ever.

– Tom "T" Bird, President of the Yerington IBEW 1245 Retiree Chapter



## Retiree Club Meeting Schedule

You can find the specific dates for each month at [www.ibew1245.com/unit-meetings](http://www.ibew1245.com/unit-meetings)

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

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

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

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

**Merced Chapter:** 1st Tuesday each

month, 10 a.m., Merced Senior Community, 755 W. 15th Street., Merced, CA.

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

**Yerington Chapter:** Meets 2nd Tuesday each month, 10:30 a.m. breakfast, 11 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, NV.

## 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!

Norverto Agcaoli  
34 Years  
San Francisco, CA

Ruben Aguilera  
43 Years  
Gilroy, CA

Peter Ambrose  
34 Years  
Atascadero, CA

Pedro Arias  
41 Years  
Eureka, CA

Douglas Atkins  
13 Years  
Auburn, CA

Larry Badorine  
35 Years  
Merced, CA

Julian Bernal  
8 Years  
Fairfield, CA

Kenneth Bettencourt  
24 Years  
Manteca, CA

Catherine Blackmon  
31 Years  
Merced, CA

Steven Blasquez  
34 Years  
Castro Valley, CA

Elaine Bogetti  
21 Years  
Tracy, CA

Edward Burpo  
40 Years  
King City, CA

Sherry Butler  
7 Years  
Spring, TX

Benjamin Campbell  
22 Years  
San Francisco, CA

Dan Carriker  
17 Years  
Paradise, CA

Fred Casillas  
41 Years  
San Luis Obispo, CA

Sai Chin  
41 Years  
San Francisco, CA

Bella Chuck  
37 Years  
Fremont, CA

Jeffrey Clark  
32 Years  
Paradise, CA

Karen Clark  
33 Years  
Sonora, CA

Gaither Cole  
41 Years  
Pittsburg, CA

Louis Cuellar  
29 Years  
Los Osos, CA

Thomas Cvietkovich  
44 Years  
San Jose, CA

Cormac Downey  
28 Years  
Fairfield, CA

Samlin Eiri  
47 Years  
Vacaville, CA

Helen Eng  
40 Years  
San Jose, CA

Gary Fernandez  
38 Years  
Fort Bragg, CA

Edward Fleige  
33 Years  
San Jose, CA

Sharon Gemini  
19 Years  
Shingletown, CA

Angelo Gines  
34 Years  
Stockton, CA

Michael Golden  
24 Years  
Burney, CA

Romeo Gotera  
34 Years  
San Bruno, CA

## Yerington Chapter Purchases Event Sign



Arena fence sign.



Attending the barbecue were Retiree Club members, from left: Luther and Alyce Reese, Bob and Judy Grush, Tom and Sue Bird, Pauline and Walt Plett.

The Yerington, NV chapter of the IBEW 1245 Retirees Club purchased an arena sign for the annual Lyon County Fair and Rodeo.

The two-by-eight foot sign was on display on the fairgrounds arena fence during the Fair from Aug. 14-17, and will remain on the fence for all events during the upcoming year, Alyce Reese reported.

An appreciation barbecue, sponsored by the Lyon County Fair and Rodeo was held the evening of Aug. 13 in the exhibition hall. "We had eight members in attendance and had a wonderful evening," Reese said.

# Fierce Competition at Pacific Northwest Lineman Rodeo



The IBEW 1245 competitors from left: Dustin Kreiger, Bill Stavrianoudakis, Josh Klikna, Business Rep and Judge Sonny Hollesen, JP Richards, Adam Beene, and Tony Albright

Two teams of journeymen linemen from IBEW 1245 travelled to Portland recently to compete in the Pacific Northwest Lineman Rodeo, hosted by Portland General Electric. The annual event was stacked with stiff competition, but both of the teams from Local 1245 proudly returned with awards in hand.

The IBEW 1245 team from PG&E — Adam Beene, Anthony Albright and JD Richards — came in first in the Speed Climb event, and the Local 1245 team from Turlock Irrigation District — Dustin Kreiger, Bill Stavrianoudakis and Josh Klikna — nabbed first place in the Hurt Man Rescue. Once all the scores were tabulated at the end of the day, the Local 1245 team from PG&E came in 5th place overall, and the TID team came in 11th overall.

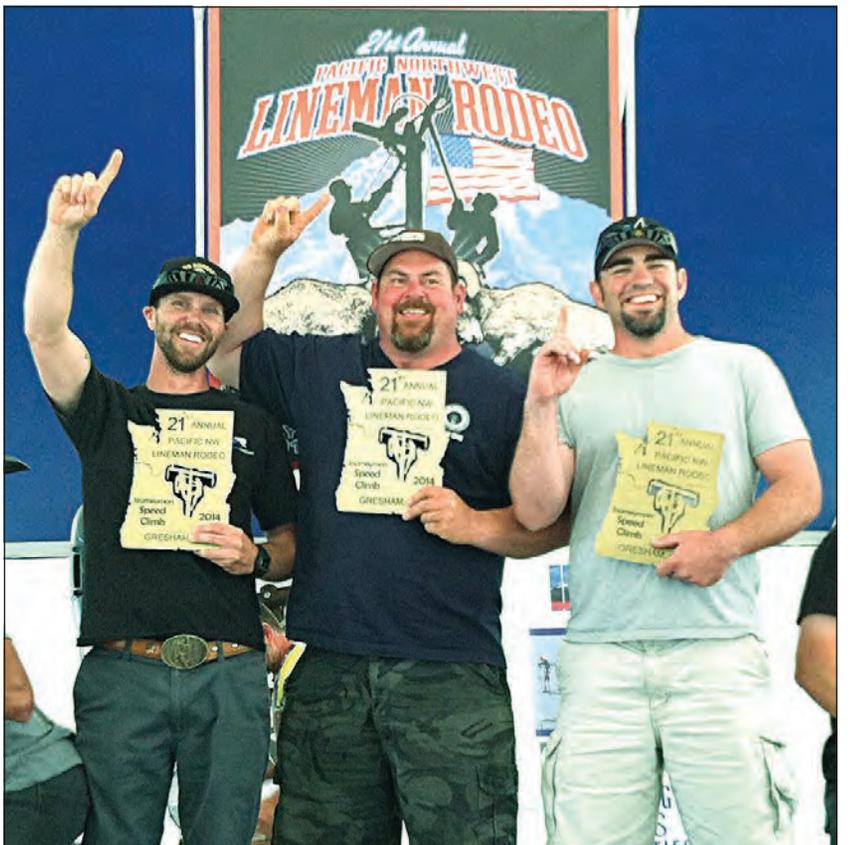
The Northwest Lineman Rodeo is more than just a fierce competition; it's also a charity event. All the proceeds go to support the Oregon Burn Center at Legacy Emanuel Hospital & Health Center, which provides critical care to burn victims in the region, including journeyman linemen who get injured on the job.

Learn more and view the rest of the rodeo results at:

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



First place team Journeyman Lineman hurt man rescue: Josh Kilkna, Dustin Krieger and Bill Stavriandudakis from TID



First place in the Journeyman lineman speed climb: Tony Albright, JP Richards and Adam Beene from PG&E

Allan Gryczewski 30 Years Nipomo, CA	Zane Littleton 30 Years Folsom, CA	Akiko Motoshige 5 Years San Francisco, CA	Steve Reniere 40 Years Atascadero, CA	William Svetz 26 Years Oroville, CA
Janet Hame 30 Years Antelope, CA	Martha Long 33 Years Yuba City, CA	Rosalinda Munoz 5 Years San Carlos, CA	Dale Robertson 34 Years Modesto, CA	William Traver 39 Years San Francisco, CA
Robert Hanson 38 Years Escalon, CA	Carol Lord 36 Years Concord, CA	Jack Navarez 6 Years Ben Lomond, CA	Mark Robertson 43 Years Grass Valley, CA	Melber Tucker 33 Years Manteca, CA
Darrell Hashimoto 33 Years San Jose, CA	Roger Mainstone 18 Years Fall River Mills, CA	Teresa Nicoletti 39 Years Richmond, CA	Maria Roman 32 Years Watsonville, CA	Eduardo Valdez 39 Years Hercules, CA
Dennis Hill 10 Years Salinas, CA	Kent Malcomson 29 Years Santa Rosa, CA	Gonzalo Nin 35 Years Shady Cove, OR	John Romankiv 37 Years Woodland, CA	Aaron Van Fleet 35 Years Stockton, CA
Deborah Hines 34 Years Pittsburg, CA	Mark Maslin 31 Years Anderson, CA	Irene Nutting 20 Years Merced, CA	Phillip Salazar 34 Years Cotati, CA	Edward Vanderhorst 35 Years Bakersfield, CA
Gary Homer 39 Years Burney, CA	Shannon McCleery 31 Years Arroyo Grande, CA	Joseph Ottman 40 Years San Diego, CA	Paul Schepis 36 Years Concord, CA	Carl Walston 34 Years Fresno, CA
Danny Jackson 42 Years Sacramento, CA	Richard Mealey 35 Years Nipomo, CA	Eduardo Perez 34 Years Stockton, CA	Cwetka Scramaglia 29 Years San Bruno, CA	Neil Ware 36 Years San Jose, CA
Thomas Knowles 21 Years Middletown, CA	Michael Micheli 37 Years Fresno, CA	Mario Perucchi 30 Years Salinas, CA	Jimmy Shaw 33 Years La Mesa, CA	Donald Wong 31 Years Sacramento, CA
Douglas Koski 33 Years Santa Rosa, CA	Mario Moise 42 Years Watsonville, CA	Jeanette Poulton 24 Years Red Bluff, CA	Richard Specht 23 Years San Jose, CA	Raymond Wu 34 Years Brisbane, CA
Lautoa Lautoa 15 Years San Francisco, CA	Ted Moore 30 Years Pleasant Hill, CA	August Proia 19 Years Concord, CA		

**Thank You!**

## Notice regarding agency fee payers objection plan

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

# THE TOKEN BEARERS

By Mike Cottrell

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

## Chapter 14

**A RACE FOR MONEY! A BUSINESS WAITS! A WOMAN AND A STORM!!!**

When Jesse left the others on the Pacific Coast Highway and started north to seek his fortune as a contractor, he believed he was going the way of a different breed needing to satisfy his American dream in another way besides wages for a day's work, rather the man with the work. Providing the jobs and contracting with the people that would eventually make him wealthy. The American dream that would be his to make or break by his own will.

He never ever considered doing it without the men of the IBEW. It was the only way he could or would approach his dream. The trained men of the trade coming from the locals of the brotherhood and doing his work under a collective bargaining system was the way he wanted it, partly to help his brothers and more to show them he could succeed as a business man and still have them to depend on to boot. He dreamed of a day when he would retire early and give the business to John and some of his old climbing buddies, maybe Kenny and Buddy, he thought would be good at it. He could train Kenny to run the office and no one else could get the work done in the field like the tenacious head scratcher. They were good hands and had good heads on their shoulders. He would keep that in mind as he moved the business forward and eventually he would dump it off on them to take the same risk and he would take the money and go on to other things. But for now, it was still a struggle to deal with contracts while John took the jobs forward and moved up the ladder learning to bid work and being allowed to come in the office on rainy days and understudy Jesse. It was working well and Jesse knew it would succeed if he just stayed on the mark.

John did not have the same work ethic and did not like to leave home, but for now would do as ordered and carefully put people in the picture as time went by to secure him nearer to the main bases around Sacramento and keep him busy there while others stayed on the road doing the jobs out of town. John had great confidence and staying power and felt the dice rolling in the company's favor. But contracting is an eternal crap shoot, catching its prey from behind and hamstringing it like a wild wolf pack on a tender young elk. Taxes and bookkeepers get their share and the in house overhead cost, that intangible that has to be paid for and cannot produce productive dollars while being suspended in the office trying to get more work devouring the profit when times are hard and the weather does not co-operate. Nothing more hated than a job soured by lazy unwatched hands or greedy bidding just to have something to do for fear of holding off until a good one comes along. Working just to keep the insurance paid and the office help on the payroll to be able to open the door, turn the key and tread water until you sink or swim again like a salmon on the spawn facing death but carrying the eggs of the future on a mission needing completion so the business can renew and continue on toward the dream.

But it was the dream that dragged Jesse on, the light at the end of tunnel and he could visualize it at first and then see it growing larger and getting closer to him all the time, and sometimes he felt he was dragging the whole weight of it behind him and other times he was on a magic carpet ride flying through the tunnel gaining quickly on it. It would evade him and grow dim again, and then he would see it flicker and refuse to let it die, speeding up again and pulling new tricks from the hat and finding new ways to extract from it a living and in the process the brotherhood drifts away sometimes not far enough to matter, and yet, far enough to see conditions deteriorate into vague promises that will no longer be kept unless guarded by the stewardship of the union.

So he drove back to Sacramento and gave thought to the men in Elk Hills and Dev who promised completion. John and the two others returning to the jobs they had before the trip to where Jimmy feared for his life while Dean watched from a distance with John to see the settlement made before Jesse shed Dev's blood.

"What happened in Medford to you and that fella' back there? Why were you going to shoot him?" asked the kid.

A rain fell now and the night dropped down upon the windshield. The wiper

blades fought back and smeared the morning bugs across the window until the combination of water and guts cleansed the view and Jesse drove in sober thought not answering the kid but remembering it all as he still did everyday for at least a moment in his day no matter what work or pleasure reckoned his schedule to be, it was there set in his mind.

Jesse and the head scratcher had caught the poles on the Pacific Coast Highway and he made the announcement to move on to start the company in Reno. Saying goodbye he took a few more rags from the box just as a gesture of fun to show Buddy he was still blowing his nose at the company's expense and moved north. He went down to Oceanside and hooked the Chevrolet to the twenty-five foot trailer house, paid up his rent, showered in the trailer park restroom and pulled out of the park. He had transferred all his money to the bank in Reno and would be starting the company as soon as he arrived for as long as it took. He had already started the subscription to the Commerce Business Daily and was eyeballing some good jobs to go after.

In the front of him another old trailer had started to bog down his speed as he blazed along up the single lane Highway One. On the trailer's bumper was an IBEW union logo and Jesse wondered if it was a traveling lineman or one of those worthless narrowback wireman. They stayed at each other for the rest of the night passing on the straight always and not being able to see one's face for darkness. Jesse had no logo and the other party would not have known he would have been of the same brotherhood. It became a contest of sorts, the traffic slow as the night drug on, neither one able to successfully out pull the other to make a significant spacing between them and the wind forcing the lead rig to work harder while the following rig sucked in tight and pulled draft and then gaining enough speed to whip around and slowly grind past the other until gathering enough momentum to pass. Each being graceful enough to blink the headlights to let the other in to the lane, and the contest enveloped them.

"Not going to let that narrowback s.o.b. outrun me by god. Wonder who in the hell that guy is, Rose. He doesn't have a logo, but I swear I know that trailer."

"I've seen it too, somewhere honey, just don't let him beat us to the hall, she giggled and so did he, the kids all red headed sleeping in the big back seat of the huge Blue Desoto. Two of them, boys, and Rose carrying another boy, she did not know that, it being still a guessing game in those days. Rose, finally satisfied that Ratchet Jaw would do her or the children no harm in this race, dozed off to sleep against the hard cold door and joined the soft snores her boys had already started in the back seat.

They cut across Forty One out of Atascadero and dueled through Kettleman City, passing and giggling into the night and when they had tormented each other to Fresno having made the half circle on Ninety Nine gas fumes won the race and they pulled into the Flying A on the north end of town, red eyed, and needing to stretch. Jesse was behind him and he was getting out motioning to the attendant what gas he wanted. The kid stuffed the nozzle into the tank and started on the windshield.

He looked back and saw him getting out of the Chevrolet.

"Jesse, you son of a gun, I knew I'd seen that trailer house before."

"Lo Ratchetjaw, where you headed?"

"Storm! Local 77 is clearing all the hands that want work. We're coming from all over. You're going aren't you?"

"I just quit down in Oceanside, was headed to Reno to start my business."

"Still thinkin' bout that damn business?"

"Somebody has to be the boss, Ratchet."

"Well the storm work is going to last a few weeks Jesse. Everybody and their dog is out of power up there. You could winter out on what you make up there, give you time to get all your bugs in a row for your new business."

"Seventeen gallons mister, three dollars and forty cents, oil's okay, air pressure's good and the window is clean, wanna' get it out of the way so I can get your friend?"

"Okay kid. I was getting low wasn't I?"

Ratchet Jaw moved on up and while Jesse pulled in and got out the kid started gassing his Chevy. Ratchet Jaw had come by the name honestly and continued his verbal assault on Jesse until he agreed he would think about going on up to Seattle for the storm work which meant premium time and lots of hours. Work till' you drop, then the boss will call you clumsy and work you till' you do it again.

"Got the family with you eh?"

"Yeah! You oughta think about one yourself."

"Not until I get my business going good and can afford a family."

"Okay Jesse business before pleasure. See you at the Blueberry Hill if you're a'mind to eat."

"Maybe so, Ratchet."

Jesse slowed down intentionally and let Ratchet get well ahead. He would have stopped with him except he had his family and Jesse didn't want to hear them kids being aroused and listen to any woman talk. It would just slow him down. He could be over the summit in another six or eight hours and heading down the grade for Reno. When he went by the café he saw Ratchet with the two little boys one to each hand following him inside slumbered and sleepy. Jesse blew the horn and thought he saw Rose wave and went on.

It was dawn and he woke up to a cold shivering that consumed him in goose bumps the size of nickels, he thought, as he rubbed his eyes and wondered where he was until he saw the flumes across the Truckee with the icicles stretching through the cracks. When he got down to Reno, he stopped at a café on Fourth Street and ate biscuits and gravy and a big slab of ham.

"Passing through or staying awhile?" While she poured more coffee, he just looked down into the cup and watched it rumble up the side and then fall back into the dark pit.

"I was gonna' start my business here this winter, but first I'm going up north somewhere and make some good, quick money and then I guess I'll come back and winter out here while I get things in order."

"Good for you. Lots of money is a good thing if you're gonna start a business."

"Yeah."

"My folks live in Tacoma and I'm going home for Christmas and I might stay there."

"That's nice." he said rolling the hot cup in his big hands.

"Can I catch a ride with you? I'll pay my way and won't be any trouble. I promise."

"Can you drive a car with a trailer hooked to it?"

"I'd be lying to you if I told you yes, mister. I just thought—"

"I'll teach you and yes, you can go if you want too and I won't charge you anything."

"I'd rather pay my way if you don't mind and not be beholdin' to you for anything."

"Suit yourself. I'm leavin' as soon as I pay my bill, gotta' get up there and get on the books and get out and make a ton of money while the storm lasts. Still want to go? The weather will be tough and I'm going on through."

"I guess I can trust you as much as one of those damn Greyhound drivers. Those big busses scare me."

She took her tips and got her pay check and gave the boss an address to send her next check. He asked if she would be back and she said she didn't know and they went out to the car. Jesse got the keys from his Levi's and opened it up and got in on the passenger side. She asked him if he was crazy and he said just sleepy and that outrules fear right now.

He coached her about the hand brake and went to sleep and she started the car and trailer up Three Ninety Five toward Susanville. Just up above Hallelujah Junction a herd of mule deer was migrating and she hit one with the front bumper and screamed. Jesse jumped up and hit his head on the roof of the car and looked around wondering what the hell and she was pulling over and stopped in a curve. He got out and looked but saw no damage and got back in and said nothing. He re-positioned himself back in the seat and went back to sleep.

"I hit a deer, a big one and he rolled off in the canyon!"

"Didn't hurt nothin'; better get this thing out of this curve before a truck or a bus hits us."

"What about the poor deer I hit?"

"I don't have time nor am I in the mood right now to make jerky. It's a shame but no worse than the car is hurt, he's just fine himself I would imagine."

"Well!"

He slept and she drove on. She filled up in Susanville and moved the thing on over to Redding and wound on up through the canyon above where Shasta Lake would be in a few years. Worried the rig around the hills and along the

Sacramento River. She was all the way to Weed when he woke up and turned and saw her struggling to stay awake by slapping herself in the face and catching cold air from the cracked window.

Jesse woke to see the snow on the wind shield and observed her slapping at her cheeks. He giggled. She heard him and turned to him embarrassed.

"It ain't funny. I almost went in the ditch a time or two and the damn road is slick as snot on a door knob"

"Well seems like you got the hang of it, but you better stop in Weed and let's get something to eat and I'll drive while you sleep. She did not argue and thought she had made a good down payment on her fare to travel north.

Jesse drove all night again and she slept. He took Ninety-Seven out of Weed and wound his way up through the mountains on the high plain. The truck drivers told him it would be the better way to go because Ashland was snowed in and he would not likely get past Yreka without being turned back. By the time he worked his way into Klamath Falls the snow and ice were winning out and he pulled in to gas up and think about which way to go. Trucks stood down at the side of the road and the truck stops. It was the worst winter in recorded history. Lights were out everywhere. A large group of trailers and cars were running at the outskirts of town and one of them was Ratchet Jaw.

Jesse pulled over and got out. Walking along the side of the road until he reached the Ratchet Jaw's car. The two boys were wrestling on the side of the road in the snow. Their clothes were wet. He woke Ratchet up when he tapped the window and waited until it was rolled down just far enough to hear Jesse.

"What's going on?"

"Couldn't stand it could you?"

"What's going on Ratchet? I need to get through or turn back, I didn't come all this way to sit."

"Neither did the rest of us and they need hands so bad in Medford we won't even have to go any further north. So look on the bright side. All the rigs and material must be over in Medford at the power company. They restored what power they can here and used up everything they got. If we don't get to Medford and get more trucks and stock them up and get started, it'll freeze a lot of people to death."

"Does anybody up in this country know what a snow plow is then?"

"They're talkin' about it now. Lining us up and plowing their way across Sixty Six and right on over above Mt. Ashland and into Medford."

And so it was. Once the locals decided the lineman had to get through with no break from the storm in sight, they took three plows and went ahead and the caravan of line hands followed toward Medford where more equipment and material was stored.

They plowed across the 48 miles right through the town of Reno, Oregon and reached the peak at Hayden Mountain 4500 feet and came out at the town of Ashland at nine o'clock in the morning. They made phone contact with Medford from Klamath Falls and the road was plowed and ready by others, and the last 25 miles to Medford were fairly easy.

Provisions and food were brought to the hall on Grape Street and the hands and their families drank coffee and signed the books and got clearances to work. The women outside in the trailers with the propane tanks going cooked food and made sandwiches. The local ladies turned out too and brought provisions and welcomed the traveling hands grateful they had come to help. The IBEW 659 business manager promised to let others go out where needed and he and his staff would bring the books where needed working with the power company so all could be signed on legally.

It was agreed and the contractors showed up to collect the hands that had arrived and started for the power company to get orders and the money began to flow and the storm had once again been challenged by the brave lineman of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Long after sunset, I did catch one and kicked the ice from it with my hooks and climbed up it like a great demon rising out of hell. The ice I kicked at separated, tumbling off the slope and I could hear it fall down past the point where I started my ascent and crumble and crash into the canyon wall below the pole butt. The wind blew strongly against me and I had to put my back to it and shuffle up the blasted thing to see you had power and I continued to kick the ice from it and cussed at the ground man below me for what I needed and prayed to God above not knowing the best remedy for my needs. The repair at the top I made taking my life in my hands for the money. The snow started falling again heavily upon my descent and down in the valley below, I could barely see through the mist, snow and fog your lights burning and for a second I felt your warmth; but only a quick second and I went to catch another one before dawn to power some other home and feel their warmth and comfort too, if only for another quick second.

*continued in next issue*

