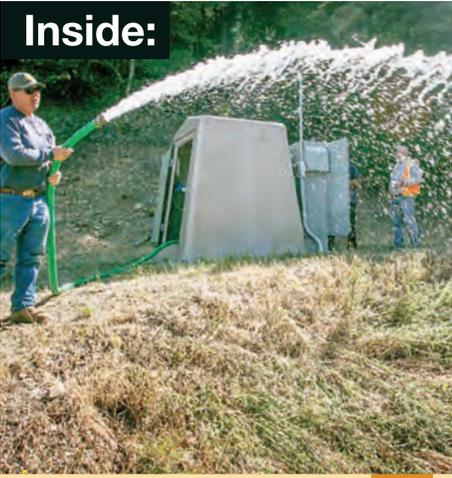


Inside:



# Utility Reporter



Volume 64 No. 4 • Oct-Dec 2015

UNITY IS STRENGTH

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

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IBEW 1245 linemen Hollis Hadley, bottom, and Don Lee from PG&E replace a utility pole that was destroyed by the Rocky Fire. Story begins on page 12.



## Arcing and Sparking

Tom Dalzell  
BUSINESS MANAGER

Much has been made by politicians and economists in recent years about stagnating wage growth. President Obama has called income inequality “the defining issue of our time.” According to the Pew Research Center, real wages for most workers have barely budged in decades, and benefits – particularly for non-union families – have been decimated. Across the country, union membership has declined in tandem with wage growth, largely as a result of globalization and far-right attacks on workers.

The trajectory of the middle class in this country is discouraging to be sure - but our members are on a different track. Thanks to your membership and support, we have been able to secure contracts that have delivered wage and benefit increases that far exceed the national average. Our members enjoy a level of stability and security that define the “American Dream.” But we can never take that for granted; we must continue to fight each and every day to protect, defend and enhance the contracts that our members count on.

Earlier this summer, we concluded a set of negotiations with PG&E, our union’s largest employer, and emerged with a Tentative Agreement consistent with the pattern of substantial compensation increases that have characterized other contracts we’ve negotiated. We were all well-served by our 21-member bargaining committee, all of whom worked tirelessly through marathon negotiating sessions to arrive at the package.

We then embarked on an intrepid

effort to communicate with members about the tentative agreement, and explain the various changes and improvements it contained. The bargaining committee, myself and our staff attended unit meetings, visited dozens of worksites, hosted Tele-TownHalls and held shop steward trainings all over the state. We answered hundreds of questions and posted responses to the most frequently questions on our website for everyone’s benefit.

The process reminded me how fortunate I am to work with such dedicated and passionate members. The discourse was largely fact-based, civil and informative, and it’s abundantly clear that our members are truly invested in their contract and the future of our union.

Our members are what make our union one of the strongest in the nation. And when the votes were tallied and we learned that the members declined to ratify the contract (see “PG&E Bargaining Committee Heads Back to the Table”, page 4), I heard the message loud and clear. They want us to do better, and believe strongly that we have the ability to secure an even stronger deal for them. And so, do better we must.

In my view, the fight has only just begun. We won’t give in, and we refuse to give up.

I know for a fact that our union is stronger for having gone through the process of negotiation and debate. I hope that through this effort we will increase the participation level in our union, which is critical to our long-term survival. Every meeting and every conversation we had helps inform how we will move forward. And we will move forward together.

In Solidarity.

## Santa Rosa Retirees Club New Location for Future Meetings

The IBEW 1245 Santa Rosa Retirees Club meeting location (Coco’s) has closed its doors without notice, and as a result, the September meeting has been cancelled.

Starting in October, the Santa Rosa Retirees Club meetings will be held at Sam’s For Play Cafe, 2630 Cleveland Ave, Santa Rosa, CA. The meetings will continue to take place the first Tuesday of each month at 10am (with the exception of the December, 2015 meeting, which will begin at 9:30am due to a scheduling conflict.)

–Ken Rawles, Santa Rosa Retirees Club

## Brager Joins Local 1245 Staff

Forty-year IBEW member Jim Brager has been tapped to replace Business Representative Mike Grill, who will be retiring from the union in September. Brager will be taking over Grill’s assignment, which includes PG&E members in Fresno Division (except Call Center), Gregg Substation, and the Merced, Auberry, Helms, Madera and Los Banos Service Centers.



Jim Brager

Brager worked as a PG&E Electrician out of Fresno for 23 years, where he spent three years in GC Substation and 20 years in Substation Maintenance. For the last three years, he served as the full-

time Safety Chair for all of Substation Maintenance, in addition to his role as a member of the Review Committee. He previously served as Chair of the old Lemoore Unit, and was serving as a member of the PG&E 2015 Bargaining Committee when he was tapped to join the union staff.

Before he came to Local 1245, Brager was a member of Fresno-based IBEW Local 100 for 17 years, where he worked as an inside wireman. He served as Vice President of Local 100 for two terms, and became an International Shop Steward in 1991.

Welcome aboard, Brother Brager!

## Unit meeting changes

**Unit 1120, Selma** is changing its meeting date to the second Thursday of every month at 4:30pm. The location will remain the same.

Ed Dwyer & Jim Brager,  
IBEW 1245 Business Reps

**Unit 2512, Angels Camp** is changing its unit meeting dates. Starting in September, the unit will meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 4pm, and meetings will be held every month, instead of bi-monthly. The meeting location will remain the same.

Lloyd Cargo,  
IBEW 1245 Business Rep

**Unit #1511, San Jose**, has moved its November meeting date so as not to conflict with the Veterans Day holiday. The meeting, originally scheduled for Nov. 11, has been moved to Nov. 18. The location and time will remain the same.

Casey Salkauskas,  
IBEW 1245 Business Rep

**Unit #3217, City of Redding**, has changed its meeting location. Beginning Oct. 6, the unit will meet at Upper Crust Pizza, 2727 Churn Creek Rd., Redding, CA. The date and time will remain the same.

Sheila Lawton,  
IBEW 1245 Business Rep

## CALENDAR

**October 10:** 28th Annual Golf Tournament, Vacaville

**October 17:** International Lineman’s Rodeo, Kansas City

**October 23:** Flu Shot Clinic, Vacaville

**October 24:** Advisory Council meeting, Vacaville

**November 4:** Negotiator Training, Vacaville

# Do It Online

ibew1245.com

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on the books

Check your  
hours worked

Pay Your Dues  
Online

### UtilityReporter

October – December 2015  
Volume 64 No. 4  
Circulation: 22,800

**Business Manager & Executive Editor**  
Tom Dalzell

**Communications Director & Managing Editor**  
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**President**  
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**Executive Board**  
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Rachel Ramirez-Hill  
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Tom Cornell  
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**Treasurer**  
Cecelia De La Torre

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

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

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

Single copies \$1. Subscription by arrangement. Have you moved recently? Please send complete new address and your Social Security Number (by U.S. Mail) to: “Address Change” IBEW Local 1245 P.O. Box 2547 Vacaville, CA 95696.

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

Our phone number is (707) 452-2700.

## Support IBEW Local 1245 Members Who Lost Their Homes in California Wildfires

Several IBEW local 1245 members and retirees have lost their homes and all of their belongings in the recent California wildfires. Many of them narrowly escaped with just the clothes on their backs. The union is looking to raise funds to help these members pay for clothes and lodging during this difficult and tragic time.

Visit [gofundme.com/IBEW1245Fire](http://gofundme.com/IBEW1245Fire) to contribute what you can. Every dollar can make a difference for a union family in need.

## Wilson Joins Local 1245 Staff

Brother Mark Wilson has joined the IBEW 1245 staff as a Business Representative, working with PG&E General Construction members in the North Bay, San Francisco, Peninsula, East Bay and Diablo Areas.

Brother Wilson has been an IBEW 1245 member at PG&E for 23 years, and has spent his entire career in the Fleet/Transportation



Mark Wilson

Services department. Prior to joining the Local 1245 staff, he was working as a Field Mechanical Inspector at Lakeville Substation in Petaluma.

Brother Wilson served as a shop steward for 15 years, and sat on the Fleet Labor Management committee for the past decade.

Welcome aboard Brother Wilson!

## Balistreri Joins Local 1245 Staff

Brother Roberto Balistreri has joined the IBEW 1245 staff as a Business Representative. He will be working with the Local 1245 members in the De Anza, San Francisco & Peninsula Divisions of PG&E.

Balistreri has been a member of the IBEW for 12 years, and served as a shop steward for nine years prior to joining the Local 1245 staff.



Roberto Balistreri

He spent most of his career at PG&E in the electric overhead department, where he worked from 2003 until 2014. He started as a T&D assistant, went through the apprenticeship program, and eventually became a journeyman lineman. In 2014, he took a temporary job as an M&C coordinator that lasted about 19 months.

Welcome aboard Brother Balistreri!

## International Labor Communicators Association Awards

# IBEW 1245 Website Takes First Place

The 2015 ILCA Labor Media Award winners have been announced, and the newly redesigned IBEW 1245 website was awarded first place for website content and design. The union was also recognized for its outstanding visual communications and writing in several categories:

**2nd Place: Visual Communication Awards** – Print and Internet / Best Informational Graphic / Local Unions, “PG&E Contract Extension”

**2nd Place: Writing Awards** – Print and Internet / Saul Miller Awards / Organizing / Local Unions, “Victory! Sunoptics Workers Choose IBEW 1245”

**3rd Place: Visual Communication Awards** – Print and Internet / Best Illustration / Local Unions, “National Lineman’s Day”

**3rd Place: Visual Communication Awards** – Print and Internet / Best Photograph / Local Unions, “Good For The Pole, Good For The Tree”

**Honorable Mention: Visual Communication Awards** – Print and Internet / Best Photo Essay or Gallery / Local Unions, “The Extra Mile”

View all of the winners at [ilcaonline.org/2015-ilca-labor-media-award-winners/](http://ilcaonline.org/2015-ilca-labor-media-award-winners/).



## IBEW Outside Linemen upgrade high voltage transmission towers

A crew of IBEW outside linemen upgraded 44 high voltage transmission towers on the Bridgeville-Cottonwood 115 line this summer. They worked together to change out the wood H structures to light-duty steel, as part of an ongoing NERC [North American Electric Reliability Corporation] project. Additional Outside Line information on page 8.



Travis Core shows apprentice Gavin Drake how to tie a knot.

From left: Joel Ibanez, Brig Roberts and Dennis Hornbeck replace high voltage transmission towers.



# PG&E Bargaining Committee Heads Back to the Table

The results of the PG&E contract ratification vote are in. Just under 11,000 ballots were mailed out, and 5,896 of the ballots were returned.

- Physical: Yes 1349 / No 3354
- Clerical: Yes 652 / No 515
- Benefits: Yes 1809 / No 3952

Since the physical and benefits agreements failed to garner enough votes, all Bargaining Committee members will head back into negotiations on Monday to work towards a new tentative agreement that will be ratified by the members.

“The Bargaining Committee worked diligently to deliver what it saw as the best and richest agreement of any unionized utility in the country,” said IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. “But the results of the vote demonstrate that our members believe we can do better. We hear and respect the opinions of our members, and we are ready to go back to the negotiating table and fight for an even stronger agreement. We know it

won't be easy, but we're committed to securing an agreement that our members can be proud of.”

Dalzell is inviting all members to take this opportunity to express their concerns over the last contract and detail the elements they believe to be critical for the next one.

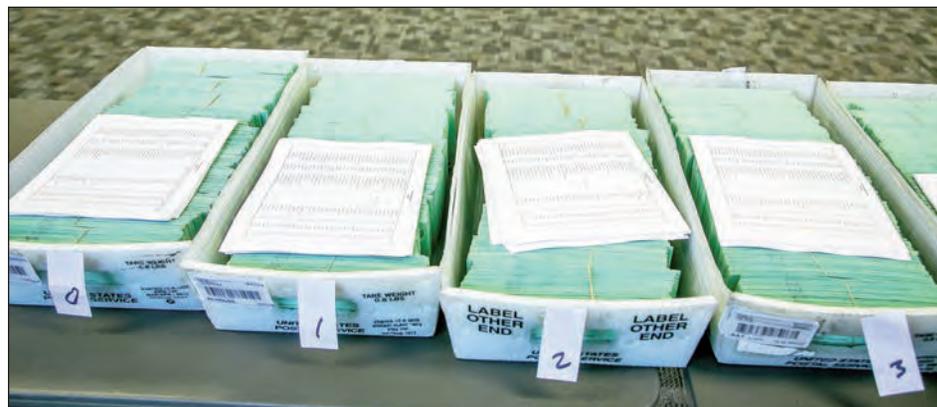
Dalzell's message to members is clear: “We want to make sure the next tentative agreement reflects the needs and wants of our members, so we encourage you to talk to your shop stewards and union reps, and attend your unit meeting in the coming weeks, so we can get a firm sense of what specific elements compel you to vote 'yes' or 'no,’” Dalzell said. “And as always, I invite you to email me at any time and share your thoughts with me directly.”

## About the Vote

The ratification vote was officiated by Pacific Election Services, an independent company that specializes in

conducting elections for labor unions. The Ballot Committee verified the eligibility of each voter and oversaw the final count. The votes were counted at the union hall on Sept. 22, and the Ballot Committee – comprised of Vivian Barraza, Nichole Brooks, Jeff Campodonico, Tara Cruz, Justin Doolan, Al Estes, Lynn Flavin, Marie Fitting, Travis

Glock, Cindy Horton, Pam Richardson and Lem Stubblefield – announced the results immediately after the counting was done.



Ballots wait to be counted.



Bargaining Committee member Eddie Moreno answers questions about the TA at a worksite meeting at the Sacramento Call Center.



Ballot Committee members verify eligibility of each voter before privacy envelopes are opened and ballots are counted. The process insures both the eligibility of each voter and the confidentiality of each vote.

# Local 1245 Receives “Movement Builders” Award from Contra Costa Central Labor Council

IBEW Local 1245 has once again been honored and awarded for its outstanding Organizing Steward program.

A group of Local 1245 Organizing Stewards and aspiring Organizing Stewards, along with Business Manager

Tom Dalzell, received the inaugural “Movement Builders” award from the Contra Costa Central Labor Council at its annual Labor-to-Labor Dinner on September 17.

The union was recognized for going above and beyond by dispatching sev-

eral dedicated member-activists to work on the Susan Bonilla for State Senate campaign, which took place earlier this year. The Organizing Stewards from Local 1245 quickly stepped into leadership roles on the campaign and provided critical assistance and coordi-

nation during an exceedingly difficult election.

“It was really refreshing to get this absolute jolt – pun intended – of energy that came with having the Organizing Stewards come and join us,” Contra Costa Central Labor Council Executive Director Margaret Hanlon-Gradie said just before handing out the awards. “It not only reinvigorated the Labor Council at a time when we were slugging through an election, it showed other unions, ‘This is how you can do it!’”

“It boils down to the investment we make in our organizations, and this union makes big investments – not only in rank-and-file workers, but in young workers, women have places of power, and people have pathways to leadership. That’s how we grow a strong movement!” Hanlon-Gradie continued.

Local 1245 members Rosario Garcia, Nicole Gross, Treva Harrison, Ricardo Hernandez, Steven Marcotte, Ivan



IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell (at podium) credits the Organizing Stewards for “fighting the fight Tom Joad talked about.” Awardees from left: Eric Sunderland, Kristen Rasmussen, Ivan Pereda, Rachel Ramirez Hill and Steven Marcotte.

continued on page 5

October – December 2015



Kevin Krummes took detailed notes.



The organizing stewards sat in rapt attention as Panetta discussed risk and leadership.



Sylvia Panetta gave a stirring introduction of her husband.

## It's About Taking Risks

# Organizing Stewards get a lesson in leadership at Panetta Institute

By Kevin Krummes,  
IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward  
Photos by John Storey

**R**isk. What do you think of when you hear that word? Maybe the classic board game springs to mind. Maybe you imagine yourself sitting in the bleachers when the Giants play the Dodgers. Maybe, if you're single, it means trying an online dating service for the first time.

These are all valid perceptions of "risk," but for the IBEW 1245 Organizing Stewards who gathered at the Panetta Institute for Public Policy in Monterey in mid-September, the concept of risk took on a new meaning – as an element of strong leadership.

The special Panetta Institute event was hosted by Leon Panetta himself, a

### **Contra Costa**, from page 4

Pereda, Rachel Ramirez Hill, Kristen Rasmussen and Eric Sunderland were recognized by name, and each received a personalized plaque from the Labor Council. The Labor Council also gave Local 1245 a framed award to display in the union hall.

"When we started our [Organizing Steward] program, we had a couple reasons for doing it. Times were changing and we need to be able to fight the good fight on the streets.... And as a matter of survival, we needed to reach younger workers. We really didn't have a choice. In five years, our movement will be gone if we don't reach out to the next generation of workers," Dalzell told the attendees at the Awards Dinner. "I would say that I am humbled by this award, but that's sort of a lie, because the award is not about me at all. This award is really about these men and women who will fight the fight that Tom Joad\* talked about when he walked away from the campfire that night."

\*Tom Joad, a character from John Steinbeck's classic 1939 novel "Grapes of Wrath," fought for the dispossessed during the Great Depression. Bruce Springsteen's 1995 recording, "The Ghost of Tom Joad," has helped keep alive Tom Joad's iconic status, just as union organizers today carry on the cause of assisting workers who need help.

Utility Reporter

former Congressman, Secretary of Defense and CIA Director. Panetta was joined by his dynamic wife Sylvia, and the couple delivered a stirring, first-hand account of how all leaders must take risks to effectively lead. According to Panetta, sitting idly by and waiting for public opinion to change is not leadership – it's just a feeble attempt to keep your job.

This message of taking a risk for what's right really hit home with the Organizing Stewards, who know from first-hand experience how important risk-taking is in order to make a difference for themselves, their colleagues, or even people they've never met.

### 2016: Our Chance to Lead

Panetta convincingly argued that next year's election will be the most critical referendum in 50 years. If we as Union members want to protect what is rightfully ours – what we have fought for and what our past brothers and sisters have died for – we need to *lead*. Union members must realize that our way of life is being threatened like never before, and if we want to pass our standard of living on to our children, we have to roll up our sleeves, get to work, and lead the way.

Some other takeaways from Panetta's inspiring talk:

- We need to exude a sense of urgency to overcome the current climate of political dysfunction. As Panetta said, "America could go one of two ways - we can enter into an era of a great renaissance, or become a coun-

try moving slowly but surely into decline." It was a powerful statement, one we're not used to hearing, and as union members and American citizens, one we must heed. As Organizing Steward Pam Pendleton put it: "My thinking changed yesterday, and I'm remembering why I made the decision to become an organizer."

- The pivotal issue of immigration needs to be addressed, and it has to happen sooner rather than later. As the son of Italian immigrants, Mr. Panetta understands the important role that immigrants play in our country. "I loved hearing about his 'Coming to America' journey," said Organizing Steward Walter Carmier. "These stories can bring us all together."
- Common sense, courage, and the willingness to work hard are just some of the strengths of the American People. If our leaders can mirror these qualities, then America can once again regain its place as a beacon of hope for the rest of the world. On a related note, Panetta emphasized the importance of integrity. "Leaders must have it," he declared. As Organizing Stewards and Union Members, it is imperative that all of us display our integrity daily.

"I found it refreshing to learn that despite who he has worked for or what he has experienced, his integrity has not seemed to waiver," noted Organizing Steward Lupe Johnson.

Perhaps the most fascinating risk-

related anecdote Mr. Panetta shared was behind-the-scenes account of the operation that brought Bin Laden to justice, which took place while Mr. Panetta was CIA Director. Using all the information available, Panetta risked it all, both internationally and domestically, and recommended sending the Navy Seals on that fateful mission. We all know the outcome, but hearing how it came about and the courage it took to make that decision was gripping.

Organizing Steward Logan Jonas summed it up: "[You have to] make a choice-no matter how difficult." One final takeaway from our visit was the compelling partnership between Leon and Sylvia Panetta. In our brief time with them, we all noticed that their love, trust, and respect for each other was readily visible. They make a remarkable team.

"What I enjoyed the most about our leadership training with Mr. Panetta was having his wife introduce him. The story behind how they met was cute. I enjoyed the passion that Sylvia shares with her husband," remarked Organizing Steward Nilda Garcia.

Any day in Monterey is special, but spending an afternoon with one of America's preeminent leaders was extraordinary. The energy in that room was palpable, and the resolve was off the charts. As we stare down the sights leading to the decisions of 2016, we only need harness the passion and dedication of the Panettas, and to use and live by his words – "Get out there and fight for what's right!"



Leon Panetta

# A Father's Love Knows No Bounds

Union provides support to Lompoc member who donated kidney to his son

By Rebecca Band Photos by John Storey

Ask just about any parent and they'll tell you: "I'd give up pretty much anything if it meant keeping my kid healthy." But few parents will ever experience the kind of sacrifice that IBEW 1245 member Patrick Whitham has made to save his son.

Ten years ago, Whitham and his wife discovered that their son Jake – who was just two years old at the time – suffered from a rare condition that was causing major damage to his kidneys. For the past decade, young Jake has been undergoing medication-based treatments to prevent full-on renal failure. Whitham knew that it was only a matter of time

organs or bone marrow, including a paid leave of absence from work.

Whitham, who works as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic for the City of Lompoc, approached his HR department to request a leave of absence under SB 1304, but he was denied. He continued to pursue it for weeks, to no avail. Eventually, he went to his union shop steward, Jaime Tinoco, and told him what was going on.

"When I first talked to Jaime about it, it was just because I wanted to keep him and the union in the loop. I didn't expect anything to come from it," Whitham said. "But Jaime really took the ball and ran with it. He took it to heart. He went to bat for me, and I really appreciate that."

As a father himself, Tinoco felt compelled to do everything he could to help his union brother out.

"This organ donation really hit me hard emotionally," said Tinoco, "because it shows the true definition of a father."

It was Tinoco who discovered that the organ donation leave

law does not apply to City employees, which was why Whitham's leave request was turned down. So he reached out to IBEW 1245 Assistant Business Manager Ray Thomas to see if there was anything the union could do.

Thomas was also touched by Whitham's story and went out of his way to get the leave request approved.

"I directly contacted City of Lompoc Human Resources Director Gabe Garcia," Thomas said. "Mr. Garcia immediately empathized with Patrick and Jacob's situation, and proceeded to champion the effort to allow for paid and excused time off provisions for Patrick while he donated a kidney to his son."

Tinoco also contacted the Mayor and made an appointment with City Administrator Patrick Wiemiller in order to lobby for the paid leave. On June 19, just days before Whitham was scheduled to have the surgery, Tinoco and fellow

IBEW member John Daniel met with Wiemiller, who agreed to make an exception and approved Whitham's leave of absence.

## "Almost Overwhelming"

On June 23, Whitham and his son took the four-hour trip to UCLA Children's Clinic and underwent the extensive and highly invasive procedure. The transplant was a success, and father and son are both recovering well.

"[Before the surgery] I had mixed feelings; there was apprehension, but I was also looking forward to getting through it," Whitham said in an interview two weeks following the transplant. "There's such a sense of relief to have this behind me. We're both still in pain, but we're so happy."

Young Jake's recovery is ongoing. Whitham's wife has to take their son up to UCLA Medical Center twice a week, every week, for the next few months for follow-up appointments with the doctors. Even though Whitham had been saving up for this and his paid leave request was approved, the medical bills, travel to LA and other expenses associated with the transplant still hit the family pretty hard.

Tinoco recognized that the Whithams could use some financial support, so again he took action.

"We requested to do a City-wide BBQ fundraiser for Patrick and his family. The City Administrator strongly supported our request," Tinoco said. "Even the Police Chief got involved in the fundraiser effort."

The Local 1245 leadership pitched in as well. When the Lompoc unit informally requested a \$500 donation from IBEW 1245 to purchase meat for the BBQ, the Local 1245 Executive Board members reached into their pockets and generously donated their own money to purchase the meat for this event, instead of requesting a formal unit motion for a Community Fund contribution (which would be the standard procedure for this type of donation).

The BBQ took place on July 16, and about 250 friends, co-workers and supporters came out. The event ended up raising \$3,147 for Whitham's family.

"The support we've gotten — not only



Patrick Whitham and his son Jake post-op. photo courtesy of the Whitham family

from friends and neighbors, but all the union members and people from the City — it's almost overwhelming," said Whitham. "I was planning to do this on my own, kind of under the radar. But the fact the people want to help is really appreciated."

## "The Jacob Whitham Act"

Whitham's ordeal has prompted the City to change their Personnel Procedure Manual in order to incorporate the Organ & Bone Marrow Donation Leave into its policy, in the event any other City employees ever have to donate an organ in the future. The members of the Lompoc unit lobbied in support of the resolution, which was unanimously approved by the City Council by a vote of 5-0 on July 7.

"[HR Director] Gabe Garcia went all out for Patrick and the subsequent city-wide resolution," Assistant Business Manager Ray Thomas noted, "so I was not surprised at all when Gabe told me that, to him, this organ donation resolution at the City will always be known as the 'Jacob Whitham Act.'"

Patrick Whitham hopes his ordeal and the new changes to the City's policy will raise awareness and embolden other Lompoc employees to become organ and tissue donors.

"This is something we should all be proud of. The city did the right thing for its employees and it's a win-win for both [the City and its workers]," said Whitham. "If this sways someone else to save another person's life or give them a better life, then it's a good thing."



Jaime Tinoco, right, gives Patrick Whitham the money that was raised from the BBQ fundraiser.

before Jake would need a kidney transplant.

That time finally came in early 2015. The doctors found that Jake, now 12 years old, had critically high levels of creatinine in his blood and would need to either go on dialysis or get a new kidney. Whitham didn't think twice. He immediately began preparing to donate his own kidney to his son.

The process was intense and took many months. "I had to ready myself, spiritually, physically and financially," Whitham said. "I began running so I would be in good enough shape to be a donor. I underwent a lot of tests... And I did extensive research to make sure I had all my ducks in a row."

During his research, Whitham discovered a California state law, SB 1304, also known as the Organ & Bone Marrow Donation Leave Law. The statute provides certain rights to individuals who donate



IBEW members from the City of Lompoc at the BBQ fundraiser that raised \$3,147 for the Whitham family.



The Lompoc Police Chief helped to serve food at the BBQ.



Patrick and Jake with HR Director Gabe Garcia at the BBQ Fundraiser.



# Reno

April 17, 2015



**35 Years**  
From left: Dana Mohler, Andy Pinochi, and William Keating.



**25 Years**  
Front row, from left: Tom Cornell and Ed Morrison. Back row, from left: Robert Helton and William Retzer.



**15 Years**  
From left: Chris Conte and Michael Nevarez.



**40 Years**  
From left: Joann Villalobos, Business Representative Randy Osborn, and Cindy Elliott.

Photos by John Storey



**30 Years** From left: Larry Greenhill, (Osborn), and Gary Henry.

*Congratulations on your service!*



**10 Years**  
Front row, from left: Chris Anderson and Veronica Rivera. Back row, from left: Executive Board member Tom Cornell, and Jonathan McCue.

## HONOREES

### 40 Years

Deal, John  
Elliott, Cindy  
Villalobos, Joann

### 35 Years

Ackerman, Gary  
Callahan Jr., Roy  
Cowperthwaite, Lance

### 30 Years

Crawford, Carl  
Darlington, Dennis  
Emerson, Johnny  
Frey, Eugene  
Jaramillo, Jerry  
Keating, William  
Kelly, Jeffrey  
Kinder, Stanley  
Lough, Donald  
McKinney, Dana  
Miller, James  
Moler, Dana  
Pinochi, Andy

### 30 Years

Cray, Tamera

Gleason, Leonard  
Greenhill, Larry  
Gruppo, Greg  
Henry, Gary  
Osborn, Randy  
Perkins, Robert  
Slagle, Steven  
Woods, John

### 25 Years

Cornell, Thomas  
Duesing, Paul  
Helton, Robert  
Miller, James  
Mixie, Robert  
Morrison, Edward  
Retzer, William  
Rose, Paul  
Rusche Jr., Robert  
Selvig, Eric  
Skroch, Shirliann  
Torvik, Thomas

### 20 Years

Clewell, David

Ferry, Michael  
Gallian, Diane  
Goodrich, Sharon  
Hanson, Jeff  
Jennings, Maria  
Kauffman, Steven  
Ornellas, Stacey  
Saxe, Ted  
Wimbley, Nancy

### 15 Years

Baffrey, Robert  
Cellarelli, Mike  
Cherry, Sean  
Christensen, Marc  
Conte, Chris  
Cunningham, Shawn  
Ellis, Steve  
Erwin, Paul  
Folmer, Jesse  
Henderson, Steven  
Huhtala, Kirk  
Jackson, John

Jordan, Mark  
Lage, Glenn  
Leaman, Bryan  
Lewis, Tony  
Miller, Milton  
Nevarez, Michael  
Norvell, Patrick  
Parale, Richard  
Phillips, Ross  
Pinkham, Clifford  
Roberts, Paul  
Smith, Jeremy  
Takayama, Mark  
Tolbert, Leamen  
Winters, Paul

### 10 Years

Anderson, Christopher  
Barajas, Victor  
Beard, Russell  
Beede, Craig  
Billows, Kevin  
Brown, Jason  
Bunkowski, Travis  
Curtis, John  
Czczok, Eric  
Diaz, Elizabeth  
Garceau, Tristan  
Gomez, Enders  
Hatch, Michael

Jinks, Steven  
Manciu, Ryan  
McClullar, Justin  
McCue, Jonathan  
Miller, Justin  
Palmer, Ronald  
Palya, Jerry  
Peralta, Gregory  
Piechocinski, Michele  
Quiroga, Hector  
Rivera, Veronica  
Sandoval, Sergio  
Van Lier, Brian  
Vanassche, Wayne  
Vandenbergh, Cory  
Wolf, Todd  
Gomez, Faustino

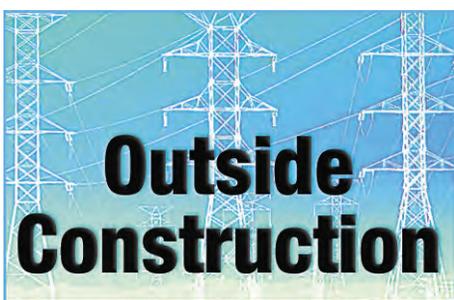
### 5 Years

Claypool, Kerry  
Giannotti, Rhonda  
Habberstad, Kyle  
Nordmeyer, Ronald  
Peters, Brandon  
Smith, Michelle  
Zimmerman, Josh

## 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.



## Work Outlook

Work outlook continues to remain steady in distribution, and we're seeing some increases in transmission work in both California and Nevada. We have a total of 93 crews (62 electric crews and 32 civil crews) currently doing distribution work on PG&E property, spread out across the whole service area. Some of the electric crews are two-man crews performing the surge arrestor project. Transmission and Substation work looks like will pick up in the last quarter of 2015; however that is always subject to change if work is put off. We are seeing some increases in transmission work now in both California and Nevada and have had a couple of open calls towards the end of the month.

We are also picking up new contractors who are performing LED streetlight retrofit projects. This work is a little confusing because some of it is for PG&E, and some of it is for cities and municipalities where PG&E is performing the project management duties. If the lights are owned by the utility, the work is performed using the Outside Line Construction Agreement, and if it is for the cities, it is performed by contractors who are signatory to the Traffic Signal and Streetlight Maintenance agreement. Keeping this work separated can be a chore, but it is critical, especially when we are dealing with City-owned equipment, because this city/municipal work must follow prevailing wage requirements. The "journeyman inside wireman" classification is the wage determination used, since this work would normally fall under their jurisdiction, however Local 1245 and Local 47 were given the maintenance agreement to help address some portability issues that existed with the inside locals several years ago.

We are starting to see some work come from the relocation of existing utilities associated with the High Speed Rail project, which is being managed by Tutor/Perini for the California High Speed Rail Authority. It makes it a little more cumbersome for our contractors performing this work but is a requirement to do so. The CalTrain project in San Francisco has been narrowed down to three contractors, and should be awarded before the end of 2015. This project will electrify 54 miles of the current train system between San Francisco and San Jose, and will require a lot of off-hour work. It is projected to take up to four years to complete. There is other trolley work going on in San Francisco as well, and it looks as though this work will be plentiful over the next couple of years.



Ralph Armstrong

## Code of Excellence

As of the end of August, we have now held 4,098 Safety orientations. These sessions emphasize professional behavior and building safety on the job, based on the red book demands and the terms of our agreement. We are driving home the point that we will expect nothing less from Journeymen working in our Jurisdiction, and we need to take all precautions possible to head off fatalities, burns, falls, and dismemberment before they happen.

## Apprenticeship Program

### Interviews

On Aug. 25 the last 80 eligible apprenticeship applicants remaining from the September 2014 application period were interviewed. During that 10-day application period, over 1,100 applications were submitted, and over the last year the JATC has worked to get everyone interviewed that qualified. The trustees will evaluate the current available applicants and will discuss the need or time to possibly open the application process again in 2015.

### Privilege Suspensions

We continue to see apprentice privileges suspended for Journeyman for various reasons. Last month alone, we had seven Lineman have these privileges suspended. These journeymen have to attend a trust meeting to discuss the incident that led to the suspension before consideration is given to reinstate those privileges. This practice is happening all across the country with all the JATCs, and the information is shared between them as well as all the contractors who use apprentices. It is important for all our Lineman to know that it is their job to teach and train each apprentice the correct and safe way to work in accordance with the agreements as well as the safety rules that are in place. Failure to do so could result in a suspension which will in most cases cause the lineman to miss out on work.

## Pay Increases

Over 90% of the outside line construction agreements expired on May 31, 2015. We have been working dili-

gently to get all these contracts ratified or extended. The largest of the agreements are the California Outside Line Construction Agreement and our Inspection Agreements (outlined above). On June 1, 2015 anyone working under these agreements should have seen an increase in pay.

We secured a two-year extension to the existing Outside Line Agreement that included an across-the-board wage increase of 2% plus a new HRA account. The contractors began paying \$.50 an hour to the new HRA account for every hour worked. This \$.50 an hour coupled with the 2% wage increase has about a 3.5% value for 2015.

Beginning January of 2016, Lineco will also have a general increase of \$.25 an hour which the contractors will also pick up. On June 1, 2016 there will be a general increase of 3% for all workers working under this agreement.

## Postings

With the construction industry it is important to work with the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) to make sure all increases are filed to accurately reflect these wage increases in the prevailing wage postings. These postings are only updated twice a year and are an important part of making sure that the correct wage rates are paid on Public Works projects. The second posting is the Federal Davis Bacon Posting which needs to be updated as well.

In addition to the prevailing wage and Davis Bacon postings, the IBEW International Office requires us to update their database on every agreement when it is ratified. A lot of work has gone into getting this information updated and correct.

## New Training

During the last joint IBEW and NECA safety committee meeting, both parties agreed to implement the "train the trainer" programs for Helicopter HEC program, as well as the new and revised Foreman training. Both of these programs have gone through a rigorous approval process and both IBEW and NECA agree on its implementation. Over the next couple of months, the JATC will

be working with trainers and employers to get some new trainers trained.

## Organizing

We signed two new contractors in July and August: Skyline Electric Company and Frontline Energy Services. We continue to talk with potential new contractors on a daily basis and we are currently waiting on paperwork for contractors who have expressed interest in becoming signatory.

## 2015 Training Schedule and Special Events

- First Aid & CPR is the 2nd Saturday of every month at JATC Riverside and Sacramento facility.
- Annual Golf Tournament – Vacaville – October 11th
- International Lineman's Rodeo, Kansas – October 17th

## Dispatch

August 2015		Total Calls YTD – 2015
Lineman	87	555
Apprentice Lineman	9	96
Equipment Man	26	106
Groundman	96	472
Substation Tech	13	78
Fabricator Tech	30	197
Cable Splicer	8	39
	<b>269</b>	<b>1,543</b>

## Out of Work Books

As of August 31, 2015

BOOK #					
L-1	19	CS-1	7	F-1	13
L-2	36	CS-2	9	F-2	1
L-3	2	CS-3	3	F-3	30
L-4	15				
		GM-1	23	Sub-1	0
ES-1	12	GM-2	23	Sub-2	1
ES-2	7	GM-3	200	Sub-3	64
ES-3	19	GM-4	260	Sub-4	1

## IBEW Local 1245 Injured Workers Fund

The balance of the fund as of July 31, 2015 was \$806,057.25. In the months of July and August the fund paid out one disability claim. Below is a summary of the annual report of the IBEW Local 1245 Injured Workers Fund, EIN 35-2308172, Plan No 501, for the period beginning October 1, 2013 and ending September 30, 2014.

### Self-Funded Benefit Information

The Trust maintains its disability and death benefits under a self-funded program.

### Basic Financial Statement

The value of Trust assets, after subtracting liabilities of the Trust, was \$733,456 as of September 30, 2014, compared to \$637,098 as of October 1, 2013. During the Trust year the Trust experienced an increase in its net assets of \$96,358.

During the Trust year the Trust had total income of \$121,919. This income included employee contributions of \$121,919.

Trust expenses were \$25,561. These expenses included \$14,061 in operating expenses and \$11,500 in benefits paid directly to participants and beneficiaries.

Benefits and eligibility rules will change from time to time. Be

sure to use the most recent plan booklet and to read any special notices about your coverage. Do not rely on outdated information. Consult your booklet or the plan office for details.

### Your Rights to Additional Information

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. An accountant's report.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of IBEW Local 1245, 30 Orange Tree Circle, Vacaville, CA 95687-3105, (707) 452-2700.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the Trust, 30 Orange Tree Circle, Vacaville CA, and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: Public Disclosure Room, N-1513, Employee Benefit Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

# Shell-Shocked in Benicia

IBEW 1245 Spreads the Word About Marin Clean Energy's Dirty Tricks

Marin Clean Energy is up to its same old dirty tricks. The deceptively-named company has expanded its bogus program into the city of Benicia, and now Benicia residents are being enrolled in MCE without their consent – under the ironic guise of “Community Choice Aggregation.”

On Saturday, June 20, IBEW 1245 held an educational blitz in Benicia to make sure consumers know the truth about MCE, and help them understand their right to opt out if they want to continue receiving energy from PG&E. Ten Organizing Stewards and prospective stewards participated in the blitz; Mike Musgrove, Kristen Rasmussen, Rachel Ramirez-Hill, Ivan Pereda, Eric Sunderland, Nilda Garcia, Sandi Busse, Steve Marcotte, Serena Moss and Christine Raines, along with IBEW 1245 staffers Eileen Purcell, Hunter Stern and Jammi Juarez.

“With flyers in hand, we went door to door to speak with Benicia residents about their City Council voting for Marin Clean Energy as their electric service provider without giving them a choice,” Organizing Steward Nilda Garcia reported. “A majority of them had already opted out, but some people were



Nilda Garcia and Sandi Busse found these “S’hell No!” flyers to be an effective way to spread their message.

not aware ... and appreciated the fact that we were out informing the community about MCE.”

By the end of the day, the Local 1245 team collectively had more than 100 conversations at the doors, and provided the residents with information about MCE and the website where they could go if they want to opt out.

“This is important work – talking di-



The IBEW 1245 crew knocked on hundreds of doors in Benicia to expose MCE's energy scam.

rectly to electric customers about serious changes to the source and environmental impacts of the electricity they receive,” said Business Representative Hunter Stern, who has been working to expose MCE’s scam for several years. “Who better to provide the facts than the workers themselves and IBEW 1245?”

When MCE first came to Marin in 2008, the agency claimed it would use real green power and create local jobs, but the reality has been quite different. MCE actually buys most of its power from Shell Energy of Houston, Texas (a subsidiary of Shell Oil) and uses an accounting gimmick called “Renewable Energy Certificates,” or RECs, to make it seem green when it’s not.

MCE provides an energy mix that emits more greenhouse gases than

PG&E from the same wires that PG&E customers receive, but they use marketing gimmicks to make it seem like it’s somehow better for the environment. Local environmental experts agree that RECs are simply a “feel good scam,” and concerns about “slamming” (the illegal practice of enrolling customers in a different service provider without their consent) have sparked concerns in every community that is considering or already using Community Choice Aggregation.

IBEW 1245 is committed to push back against the deceptive scams being promoted by MCE, as well as other companies seeking to take advantage of Community Choice Aggregation for their own financial gain. Learn more, at [www.StopTheShellShock.org](http://www.StopTheShellShock.org).

## IBEW Lobbies California Legislators to Support Clean Energy and Job Creation

Over 70 IBEW members from all over California descended on the Capitol on August 18 for an intense day of face-to-face meetings and a little arm-twisting to support the bills and legislators that will help further the job creation and clean energy goals of the State. Local 1245 had the largest contingent as staff Organizers Jammi Juarez and Fred Ross, Business Rep Hunter Stern and Organizing Stewards Kevin Krummes, Ivan Pereda and Gerald Williams led the charge to urge state legislators to vote yes on SB 350 (de Leon). The bill will lead California into the next phase of clean energy and clean fuel production and create up to 400,000 new jobs in the next 15 years. Local 1245 was pleased to have International Representative Charlie Randall of the IBEW 9th District Office join the delegation.

The IBEW contingent broke into four groups and immediately got to work, speaking with 25 Assembly Members and Senators to urge them to support SB 350. Some were easy sells, such as Assembly member Mark Stone of Santa Cruz, who is eager to see the benefits of SB 350, according to Kevin Krummes and Ivan Pereda, who met with Stone. Others,

such as Assemblymember Jim Frazier of Oakley, are supportive of extending the Renewable Portfolio Standard to 50% of the electricity to be generated from renewable sources, but remain very skeptical of the other elements of the bill



IBEW 1245 staff organizers Jammi Juarez and Fred Ross, with Yolanda Chacon and Dolores Huerta, at the State Capitol.



Senator de Leon briefed the delegation before they began lobbying. Photo by Rachel Bryan

— as well as the manner in which these provisions may be implemented by the California Air Resources Board — and will not support the bill as-is, according to Hunter Stern.

After weeks of intense debate and negotiations, the California Legislature passed SB 350 with bi-partisan support,

but only after the hotly-contested provision to cut the use of petroleum in California by 50 percent over the next 15 years was removed from the final version of the bill. Gov. Brown has expressed his support for the environmental provisions in SB 350 and is expected to sign the bill into law.

### Union Teams Up with SF Board of Supervisors and Mayor Lee to Help Provide Truly Green Energy to San Franciscans

IBEW 1245 has reached an important agreement with San Francisco Board of Supervisors President London Breed, Mayor Ed Lee and Supervisor John Avalos to ensure that San Franciscans have the best chance to receive truly green, truly clean energy through the upcoming CleanPowerSF program.

On July 31, the Board of Supervisors approved an amended version of President Breed’s Clean Energy Right to Know Act that reflects the City’s plans to limit the use of unbundled Renewable Energy Certificates, or RECs, in CleanPowerSF’s power mix. Although previous iterations of the program have relied on unbundled RECs, respected environmentalists, energy experts and the California Labor Federation have strongly criticized their use.

“Limiting the use of unbundled RECs means that residents can be more confident that the CleanPowerSF energy program will deliver

what it promises,” said IBEW 1245 Business Rep Hunter Stern. “We’d like to thank Mayor Lee, Board President Breed and Supervisor Avalos for their leadership on this issue and for their commitment to ensuring CleanPowerSF voluntarily uses no more unbundled RECs than what is allowed under state’s Renewables Portfolio Standard. Local 1245 fully supports Measure H, and will actively campaign for its passage and against the ‘Renewable Energy Truth in Advertising Act’ (Measure G) we previously submitted for the ballot.”

“While we have this understanding, there are plenty of our enemies in the City trying to undermine this compromise approach,” Stern continued. “So we will need to fight hard to ensure that unbundled RECs will not be used to call dirty power green in San Francisco the way Marin Clean Energy has done.”

For more information, visit [www.truthinenergysf.com/](http://www.truthinenergysf.com/).



## Close to Home

# Fresno Charity Bowl Raises Funds for Local Muscular Dystrophy Association

When Mason Nguyen-Quiroga was diagnosed with the rare muscle disease Dermatomyositis at the tender age of eight years old, he spent seven weeks in the hospital and was confined to a wheelchair for more than a year. Now, two years later, Mason still needs daily medications and weekly injections. Kids with Mason's condition usually don't get to go to summer camp, but the Muscular Dystrophy Association office near his home in Fresno sponsors a special camp just for kids with muscle disease, with doctors, nurses, counselors and support staff on hand to help ensure children that need more assistance can safely enjoy Camp Tuolumne Trails.

Thanks to the MDA local Fresno office, ten-year-old Mason just completed his second year at camp. He told his stepfather, IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward P.J. Saenz, "It was awesome! Can't wait until next year!" Mason's experience has inspired his stepdad to do what he can to give back to the MDA and keep the camp going for Mason and other kids like him.

As one of the coordinators of the IBEW 1245 Fresno Charity Bowl, Saenz proposed making the Fresno MDA the official charity of this year's bowling event, which took place on June 27. The second annual event was a rousing success,

with 22 bowlers and 60 attendees raising more than \$2,000 for this very worthy cause – twice as much as was raised at last year's event. The event organizers from IBEW delivered the check to the MDA's Fresno office the following week.

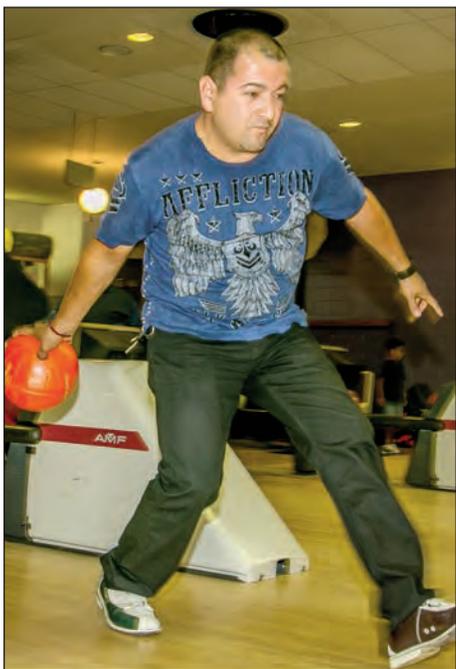
### "Everyone's a winner!"

The event was definitely a family affair, with lots of young bowlers-in-training joining their parents on the lanes. The air-conditioned bowling alley providing a much-needed reprieve from the sweltering summer weather.

IBEW 1245 Business Reps Gracie Nunez and Rey Mendoza, Organizing Stewards Georgette Carrillo and Melissa Becerril, Shop Stewards Eddie Moreno, Joe Sanchez, and Anita Chavez, prospective Organizing Steward Ashley Boles and member Aracely Magana assisted with raising donations from the gracious support of members within IBEW 1245, UFCW 8, SEIU 521 and the Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Central Labor Council. Member Luis Sandoval brought old friends from high school. UFCW 8's Jerry Hunsucker and Jim Avalos bowled with Dillon Savory of the Labor Council. Hunsucker even helped sell raffle tickets during the event. Prize items included a 50 inch LED TV, a Blu-Ray player, the movie "Cesar Chavez" and IBEW 1245 emblem merchandise. Attendee Raul Reyes was shocked when he won the Grand Prize TV.

"For those who escaped the heat and tried to roll strikes, the atmosphere was very friendly, wild, and fun," said Saenz, who worked with fellow Organizing Steward Miguel Pagan to coordinate the event. "Nobody walked away without enjoying some laughs and everyone was a winner!"

*P.J. Saenz contributed to this report.*



Photos by John Storey



**Work Hard, Play Hard**

## Second Annual Central Valley Softball Tournament Raises Over \$1,900 For Local Charity



**I**BEW 1245 members work hard, and they play hard. Sometimes they play so hard that they hurt themselves.

But despite a player injury that occurred during the final game of the day, IBEW 1245's Second Annual Central Valley Charity Softball Tournament was a rousing success.

Nearly 60 players from all over the Central Valley came to compete for the title, while their friends and family cheered them on from the sidelines and enjoyed some tasty nachos and tacos. Attendance at this year's event was triple the number who joined the action last year. Altogether, more than 120 people came out to the charity event, which only came to fruition thanks to the hard work of Central Valley Organizing Committee members Rodrigo Flores, Rachel Ramirez-Hill, Carl Olguin and Rosario Garcia.

"It was a great day full of delicious food, raffle prizes, and fun with family and friends," said Organizing Steward Rosario Garcia. "This year's

competition was fierce, with six teams coming out from all areas of our great valley to make history ... as the first team to win the 1245's Central Valley Organizing Committee Softball Tournament."

Unfortunately, due to an injury that occurred when a player was racing to score a run, the final game ended early. The two teams that faced off in that last game — the Skull Crushers (Modesto PG&E Yard) and Sweet Lu's (a local restaurant) — demonstrated true sportsmanship by agreeing to call it a tie.

Despite the abrupt ending to the day, pretty much everyone left the field feeling great (with the exception of the injured player, who wasn't feeling so great at the time, but is now recuperating after undergoing surgery to repair his broken leg).

**"We are truly happy with our union."**

"I realized how meaningful the event was to our members when I received several calls the following

day from members offering to help at next year's event ... and donate with whatever they can give. The feedback I'm getting from members is 'We are truly happy with our union,'" said Organizing Steward Carl Olguin. "What thrills me the most is that our members are already planning for next year's event. What an amazing feeling. All our hard work is finally paying off!"

So far, the charity event raised \$1,985.05 for the city of Ceres Youth Programs, which provides scholarships for low-income children to participate in recreational sports leagues. Additional donations are still coming in.

"I can hardly wait for next year's event," said Olguin. "I know our members will come through as always and our attendance will double!"

If you live in the Central Valley and would like to be involved in next year's tournament, contact your Business Rep or a member of the organizing committee.



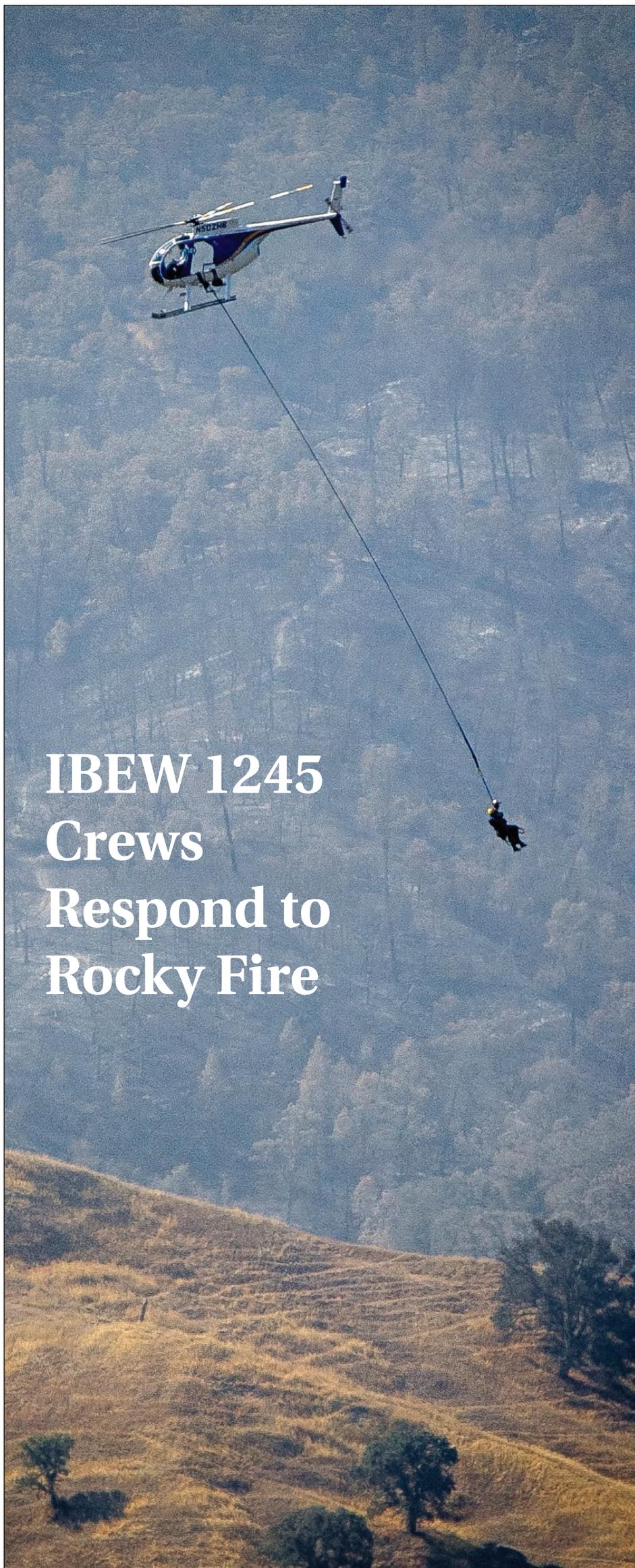
The Modesto Skull Crushers team



Sweet Lu's team



Photos by John Storey



# IBEW 1245 Crews Respond to Rocky Fire

On the other side of the ridge, a helicopter is used because the terrain is inaccessible.

Article by Rebecca Band  
Photos by John Storey

A big, severe drought inevitably leads to a big, severe fire season. The Rocky Fire was the first, but certainly not the last, massive fire to sweep through northern California this year, which has made it a busy sea-

son for the IBEW Local 1245 members who worked to restore and repair power poles and lines.

On July 29, the Rocky Fire broke out near Clear Lake in Northern California, about 100 miles north of San Francisco. The exceptionally dry and windy weather conditions allowed the wildfire to spread at a breakneck pace,



Kyle Woodward, left, Cody Smith, middle and James Raggio replace burnt poles.



Hollis Hadley (left) and Don Lee (right) work on the new cross arms.



and more than a thousand residents were forced to evacuate as the fire tore through communities in Lake, Yolo and Colusa counties. According to NASA, the fire generated so much smoke that it could be seen from space.

After all the flames were finally extinguished, the Rocky Fire had taken out 43 homes and 53 outbuildings, along

with a PG&E transmission line and two distribution circuits. The company reports that the fire scorched 88 power poles; some had burned so badly that they fell down, others were still standing but charred to the point that they were extremely unsafe.

About 100 IBEW Local 1245 members from PG&E were dispatched to the area



Don Lee guides the UTV (utility terrain vehicle) operator.



IBEW 1245 members Cole Parmeter and Kenn Farris use the UTV.

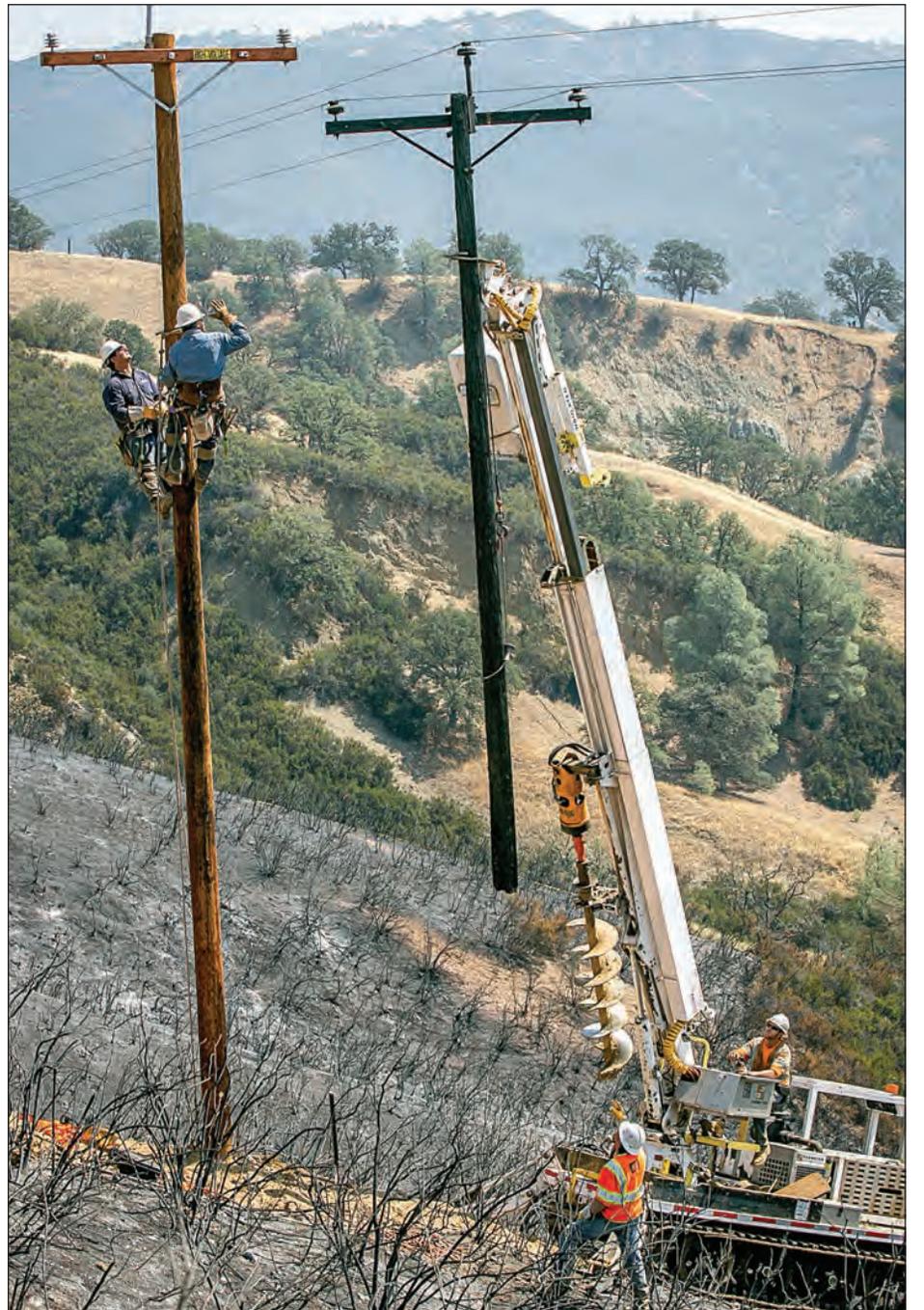


The UTV allowed access to the rough terrain.

and worked closely and safely with the first responders, but the rugged, steep terrain made the areas in need of restoration and pole replacement extremely difficult to access.

“We were able to get in here yesterday [Aug. 5], and we replaced the poles that we could using the line truck. We had a CAT that built us some roads to

the poles because most of this is inaccessible,” said Ken Farris, PG&E Electric Crew Foreman out of the Clear Lake yard, while his crew worked nearby. “Today, we have a UTV [utility terrain vehicle], to get down there and help us replace a few more poles. Some of the guys on the other side of this ridge over here, they’re flying in



The crew works together to replace the burnt poles.



IBEW 1245 members Hollis Hadley, left, Cole Parmeter on the UTV, and Don Lee.

the poles because they can’t get any [vehicles] in.”

Firefighters finally succeeded in fully containing the Rocky fire on Aug. 14. The fire burned more than 69,400 acres.

One of the residences destroyed by the fire belonged to IBEW 1245 retiree Bill Hilbrandie (see “Santa Rosa Retir-

ees Help Victim of Rocky Fire” on page 19), and the union is currently working to raise funds to help Brother Hilbrandie rebuild his home.

See more photos at:  
<http://ibew1245.com/2015/08/07/pge-crews-respond-to-rocky-fire/>

# PG&E CCFA Unit Votes 47-5 to Join IBEW 1245

by Eileen Purcell, IBEW 1245 Staff Organizer

On Friday, August 7, PG&E Computer Client Field Analysts (CCFAs) overwhelmingly voted to join IBEW 1245. Turnout was a record high. Of the 53 eligible voters, 52 cast ballots in the NLRB sponsored election, with 47 voting yes (90%) and 5 voting no. There were no challenged or voided votes.

The vote culminated a five-month organizing drive that began when Braden Warrender, a PG&E CCFA working in San Ramon, reached out to IBEW 1245 organizer Jennifer Gray. “Originally, it started when I read about SoCal Edison outsourcing its entire I.T. Department,” said Warrender, who has worked for PG&E for two years.

Warrender helped develop and lead the Volunteer Organizing Committee (VOC) which was comprised of eight co-workers from across the PG&E territory. He and the VOC worked closely with Gray, IBEW Local 1245 Organizer Jammi Juarez and IBEW International Organizer Rick Thompson. IBEW 1245 Senior Assistant Business Manager Joe Osterlund was instrumental in answering an array of questions as would-be members evaluated the prospect of joining IBEW 1245.

The VOC educated their co-workers and turned out the unprecedented vote, taking seriously the advice from Juarez and Thompson that “It’s up to you.”

“It was inspiring to see workers from numerous areas, with different issues and various tenure, come together and decide to take charge of their work lives,” said Thompson.

Warrender and co-worker and VOC member Alfreda Smith observed the vote count, which took place at the NLRB Region 32 offices in downtown Oakland.

“I feel relieved,” said Warrender after the votes were counted. “We put in a lot of work.”

Alfreda Smith, a 36-year employee at PG&E’s General Offices in San Francisco, said “I feel great! I’m really happy for the CCFAs.”

“I’m retiring soon,” Smith added, “but after I leave, CCFAs will have a voice in what happens. This is a victory for the workers who will be here in the future.”

Shortly after the results were announced, IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell spoke to Warrender and Smith by phone, welcoming them to IBEW 1245 and congratulating them and the VOC for “taking control of your lives.”

“We respect PG&E’s decision to provide IBEW 1245 the opportunity to present information and letting its employees decide what is best for them,” Dalzell added.



VOC members Alfreda Smith and Braden Warrender proudly don IBEW 1245 hats after the NLRB vote tally



(from left) IBEW 1245 Organizer Fred Ross, VOC members Alfreda Smith and Braden Warrender, IBEW International Organizer Rick Thompson and IBEW 1245 Organizer Eileen Purcell

## PG&E Gas Distribution Coordinators Join IBEW 1245

by Jammi Juarez, IBEW 1245 Staff Organizer

On June 16, the Gas Distribution Coordinators at PG&E’s Bishop Ranch facility voted to join IBEW local 1245 by a margin of 2-to-1.

The IBEW 1245 organizing team first met with the Gas Distribution Coordinators on April 16, 2015 to discuss joining the union. The NLRB election took place exactly two months later, using the new expedited electronic filing process. The final vote tally was 8 to 4. The company maintained a neutral position during the campaign.

IBEW 1245 staff will be working to incorporate these new members into the existing Physical Collective Bargaining Agreement, and plan to negotiate a Letter Agreement for the specifics affecting the group. Local 1245 staffers Joe Osterlund, Lou Mennel and Jammi Juarez have already met with the new group to begin the process of negotiating the LOA.

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Nikki Estridge  
union member

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<sup>1</sup>Certain restrictions, limitations, and qualifications apply to these grants. Additional information and eligibility criteria can be obtained at [UnionPlus.org/Assistance](http://UnionPlus.org/Assistance). Three unique card options are available. Credit approval required. Terms & Conditions apply. Union Plus Credit Cards issued by Capital One, N.A. The MasterCard Brand Mark is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated.



Apprentice Patrick Luz competes in the Hurt Man Rescue event.



PG&E Linemen Bob Brock, left, and Sal Holcomb compete.



[ABOVE] Lineman Russell Criner pulls up a transformer.

[RIGHT] Groundman Curtis Grimes



# IBEW 1245/PG&E Lineman's Rodeo Represents a Chance to Reach the Holy Grail

by Bob Gerstle, IBEW 1245 Assistant Business Manager  
Photos by John Storey

For over 100 lineman and apprentice lineman, The PG&E/IBEW 1245 lineman rodeo, which took place on Aug. 1, represented a chance to reach the Holy Grail: the International Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas City. Only a select few can qualify.

This was the fourth annual PG&E/IBEW rodeo, which came back in 2012 after a 12-year hiatus. It has gotten bigger and better each year. As a result, the competition has gotten much stiffer. It certainly didn't hurt that the team from Grass Valley, made up of JP Richard, Adam Beene and Anthony Albright, were the overall world champions last year in Kansas City. Everyone wants to take down the champions.

The day has also become a wonderful day for families. As a result, attendance has increased each year. There are many vendor booths, and the activities for kids are endless. The food, courtesy of ex-PG&E lineman Ish Hernandez, is exceptional.

At the end of the day, it wasn't a PG&E team that got the first-place trophy. A team from SoCal Edison was on top of the podium. The Grass Valley team was the top PG&E team, coming in second

Utility Reporter



place overall, which means they'll be heading back to the International Rodeo this year. The other top-scoring PG&E journeymen and apprentices going to Kansas City are listed below.

- Journeymen: Anthony Esposito, Luke Bogart, Jacob Hunt, Josh Tuner, Marco Acosta, Eli Tharp, Jacob Krzyminski, Mark Stacy, Cassidy Maxfield
- Senior Division: Randy Patt, Michael Moss, Jerry Bryant
- Apprentices: Jordan Chene, Logan Schaffer, Tanner Boren, Tim Moore, Zack Huseby, Brandon Dance

# IBEW 1245 Members Compete in National Gas Rodeo

Story by Rebecca Band  
Photos by John Storey

This summer IBEW 1245 members from PG&E competed in the National Gas Rodeo in Colorado

Springs, CO for the third time, and this year, the union was well represented. Of the 52 teams participating in this year's Gas Rodeo, four of them were made up of IBEW 1245 members from PG&E.

The teams competed in four qualifying events – the meter set, six-inch pipe cut, service run and hand dig.

The other teams were extremely skilled, and our members showed their

competitive spirit. They were more prepared this year, thanks to the practice they got at the first annual PG&E/IBEW 1245 Gas Rodeo, which took place on May 30th.

Even though they showed marked improvement, Local 1245's teams from PG&E didn't quite make the strides they had hoped for. In the end, our top teams missed the chance to compete in the final relay round by less than a minute.

In the two-person team division, the North Valley Gas Rats (Michael Silveria and Gregory Haggard, alternate Jayson Visinoni) came in 17th and Frisco's Elite GC Gas (Marcus Pineda and Kitiona Umaleava, alternate Tahmal Fleming) came in 20th.

In the four-person team division, Los Jefes (Emanuel Ene, Adam Kotko, Miquel Loza and Sam Barraza, alternate Garrett Velenquela) placed 14th and the Yosemite team (Kevin Gonzales, Devin Holman, Ryan Clark and Walter Bobbitt, alternate Cornelis Koeiman) placed 21st.

Even though his team didn't make it as far as they'd hoped, Eman Ene from the Los Jefes team called the experience "awesome."

"I met a lot of good guys from different companies, and had a great time," said Ene. "The practicing and all the work we put into it definitely paid off."

Street Fitter Marcus Pineda from Frisco's Elite GC Gas team felt the same way.

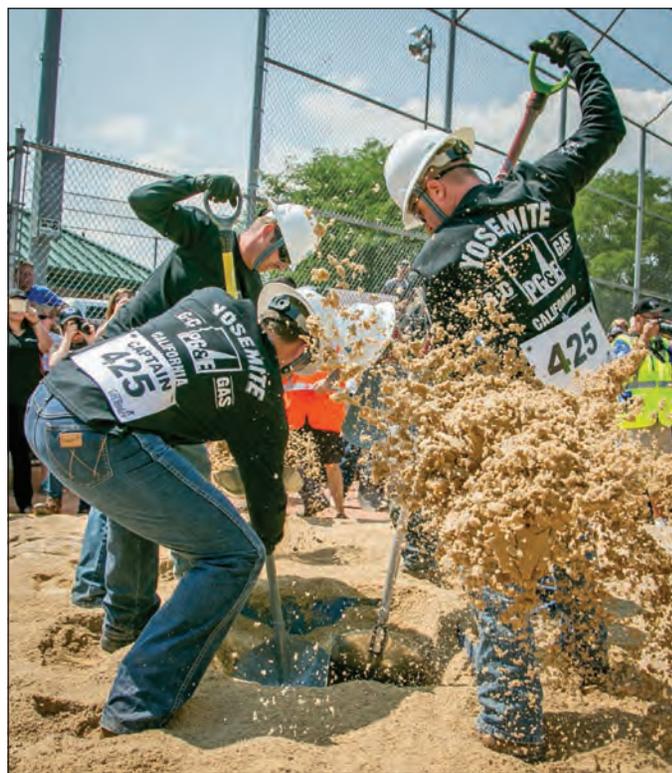
"I loved it. We get to come out and compete, show our skills and see what everyone else has got," said Pineda, who competed in the National Rodeo last year as well. "Everybody out here is real cool and we had a great time."

There's no question that the competition has motivated the Local 1245 teams from PG&E to practice even harder to improve their standing next year.

"The hardest thing today was keeping your adrenaline where it needed to be," said Ene. "We had a couple slip-ups... but it's nothing we can't fix. We'll be in the top five next time."

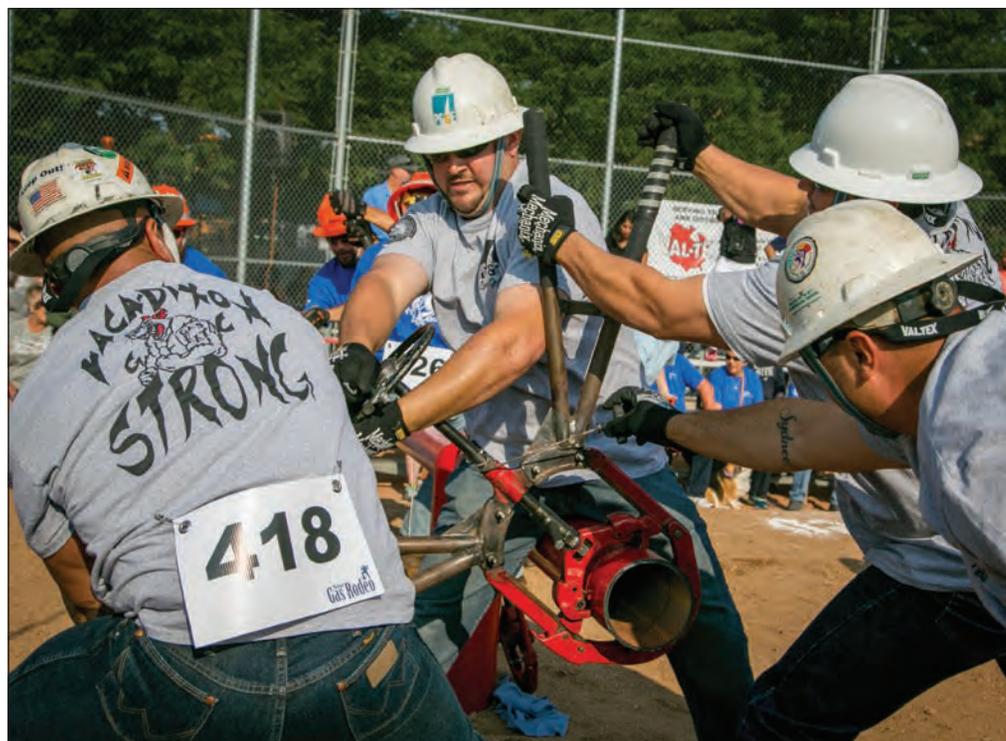


The North Valley Gas Rats compete in the Service Installation event.



Team Yosemite competes in the Hand Dig event.

More photos at: <http://bit.ly/1F1qitN>



PG&E teams compete in the Pipe Cut event. Los Jefes on the left and Frisco's Elite on the right.

# “The Union Changes Lives”

## Organizing Institute Teaches Up-And-Comers to Recruit New Leaders

By Eileen Purcell, IBEW 1245 staff organizer

When the workers at his facility began organizing to join IBEW 1245 in 2013, Sunoptics assembler Todd Davis found himself taking on a new role – that of a union organizer and leader. He stepped up and helped run a successful organizing campaign that resulted in a victorious union election at Sunoptics in January 2014.

But even though he has the experience of forming a union from the ground up, Davis discovered that he still had a lot to learn about union organizing when he attended the AFL-CIO’s three-day intensive Organizing Institute, which took place at Weakley Hall during the last weekend in June.

“This training was not easy,” Davis remarked. “I assumed I knew some stuff, but I didn’t.”

Davis was one of fifteen IBEW 1245 organizing stewards and prospective organizing stewards who participated in the Organizing Institute workshop. Two brothers from IBEW 441 and a staffer from the Sacramento Central Labor Council were also in attendance. AFL-CIO Organizing Institute staffers Patricia Recinos and Tiffany Lake led the training, and were joined by several facilitators from the IBEW, including 9th District Organizing Director Bob Brock, IBEW organizer Rick Thompson, and Local 1245 staff organizers Fred Ross, Jammi Juarez and myself.

The workshop focused on honing the specific skills that every organizer needs in his or her toolbox, including articulating the union difference and inoculating workers against the bosses’ attacks, setting goals, identifying issues, developing actions, building committees, crafting messages and creating catchy slogans. They learned about the characteristics of a good organizer and a good leader, and watched the anti-union video Target management uses in their new employee orientations attacking unions.

But the centerpiece of the training was the one-on-one conversation and relationship-building activity. Participants examined the component parts

of an effective organizing conversation and practiced each part, role-playing with each other and with the facilitators. They also practiced active listening, the art of the open-ended question, and techniques to “draw out the story.” They discovered that understanding the hopes and concerns of would-be union members is key when it comes to motivating them to take public action. The capstone of the experience involved conducting two simulated 30-minute house visits as part of a mock organizing drive at a manufacturing plant.

### “You guys inspire me”

The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive.

“I loved this training,” said seasoned Organizing Steward Nilda Garcia. “I am very proud to be part of IBEW, and I love organizing!”

Prospective Organizing Steward Todd Davis, the former leader of the Sunoptics organizing campaign, had two big take-aways: “The Union changes lives,” and it’s imperative to “get our members involved.”

Chris Hahn, also one of the leaders of the Sunoptics fight, said, “It was an honor to be here. It was tough and I struggled, but I can learn to be a better leader.”

“The training was not what I expected,” said Neal Lauzon, an inside wireman and President of IBEW Local 441. “Most trainings are boring – you sit there and listen. This was the opposite. It changed my approach to talking with folks in five or fifteen minutes.”

Theresa Hernandez from the recently organized unit at the City of Lompoc thanked the group and said “IBEW is in my heart. I feel like we are brothers and sisters. I learned so much. I love you guys.”

An unexpected bonus was the presence of 12-year old Madison, daughter of NV Energy Organizing Steward Veronica Rivera. Madison participated actively over the three days, and even spoke about the union difference. At the



Bob Brock, IBEW District 9 Organizing Director

end of the workshop, after everyone else had given their feedback, the youngster stood up in front of the group and said, “Thank you, I thank every one of you in this room, especially my mom. You guys

inspire me.”

Each participant left the day with a certificate of achievement from the AFL-CIO Organizing Institute inscribed with the quote:

*“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, want crops without plowing the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and never will.”*

–Frederick Douglass



Fred Ross, Jammi Juarez, Eileen Purcell, Bob Brock, John O’Neil (IBEW 441), Rick Thompson, Neal Lauzon (IBEW 441)



The Organizing Institute participants and facilitators

#### PARTICIPANTS:

- Sandi Busse (PG&E Sacramento Call Center)
- Todd Davis (Sunoptics)
- Nilda Garcia (PG&E Sacramento Call Center)
- Chris Hahn (Sunoptics)
- Theresa Hernandez (City of Lompoc)
- Ricardo Hernandez (PG&E Sacramento Call Center)
- Arnaldo Lizarago (Trayer)
- Kristen Rasmussen (PG&E Stockton Call Center)
- Veronica Rivera (NV Energy)
- Madison Rivera (daughter of Veronica)
- Luis Sotomayor (PG&E Grass Valley)
- Eric Sunderland (SMUD)
- Andrew West (PG&E Grass Valley)
- John O’Neill (IBEW Local 441)
- Neal Lauzon (IBEW Local 441)
- Tamie Dramer (Sacramento Central Labor Council)

#### TRAINERS

- Patricia Recinos & Tiffany Lake, AFL-CIO Organizing Institute
- Fred Ross, Jammi Juarez & Eileen Purcell, IBEW 1245
- Rick Thompson & Bob Brock, IBEW

# Local 1245 Retirees Hold Second Annual Joint Meeting

**I**BEW 1245 retiree leaders from Nevada and California held their second annual joint meeting on July 24 in Reno to strategize on ways to amplify the voice of retired union members. Their immediate goal is to grow the IBEW 1245 Retirees Club as well as the two statewide organizations representing all retired union members: the Nevada and California Alliances for Retired Americans (NARA and CARA).

Tom Bird, who has been instrumental in organizing Nevada's IBEW retirees, said the meeting focused on recruiting, retaining, messaging, and making contact with retirees.

"When people retire and they change their phone number, their e-mail, we can't find them," said T-Bird, as he is universally known. There are currently 600 IBEW retirees in northern Nevada—a large number of them from Local 1245—and another 600 in the southern part of the state, he said.

The joint meeting in Reno was led by IBEW 1245 retirees from California: Ken Rawles and Bill Wallace. Both of these retired brothers are outspoken in the movement to mobilize retired union members. Rawles publishes a bi-monthly newsletter for the IBEW Ninth District, which encompasses 39 IBEW locals. Wallace is a frequent contributor to IBEW 1245's website and newspaper.

Rawles, who helped organize the Santa Rosa Chapter, sees two major reasons for retired local union members in California to get involved in the IBEW 1245 Retirees Club. The first is to stay current on what's going on in the local union and provide support where possible. A second major reason is "to support each other."

"There's going to come a time when somebody needs some help around their place, and we're going to do that," said Rawles. "Retirees don't work so we have the time to provide that kind of support to each other."

Rawles thinks it's important for retirees to attend the unit meetings for current employees—or, as Rawles likes to call them, "future retirees." It's one way to let these members know they can have influence even after they've retired.

Ron Borst, a leader in the Reno-Sparks Chapter of the Retiree Club, says he can think of three areas where that influence is needed: Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. All three programs are a source of support for senior citizens, and all three are vulnerable to the budget axe if seniors don't help defend them.

Retirees in Reno-Sparks have

demonstrated that it's also possible to have a direct impact on the well-being of seniors locally. The Reno-Sparks Chapter has used the IBEW 1245 Community Fund to direct money to charities that are geared toward senior, Borst noted, including Meals on Wheels and the Evelyn Mount food bank.

At the Chapter's last meeting, with the weather heating up, Borst challenged Chapter members to round up fans that could be donated to seniors who need them.

"There are many people who never had the opportunity to work under a good union contract, but they may have supported us in daily life, as cooks, as mechanics, or whatever," Borst said.

Helping distribute fans to those who need them isn't just an act of charity—it's a way of saying "thank you" to seniors for their service as workers, whatever that service might have been.

"We came up with 21 fans in three days," Borst said.

Rita Weisshaar, another activist in the Reno-Sparks Chapter, said the IBEW 1245 campaign in 2010-2011 to prevent cuts in retiree medical benefits at NV Energy shows that retirees can have an effect when they stand together. She noted that IBEW 1245 retirees helped swell the crowd during a protest against threatened cuts in Social Security benefits.

Social Security and Medicare "have protected seniors from poverty,"

Weisshaar said. Seniors, in turn, must protect these programs to make sure they survive.

Although the IBEW retirees plan to use social media in their recruitment drive, they hope the result is to get people to attend face-to-face meetings.

"Human contact is what these meetings provide," said Borst. "It's more personal."

"It's camaraderie, staying current on things you don't get on Facebook," said T-Bird. "The only way to engage in that is to show up for the meeting."

T-Bird thanked the IBEW 1245 Executive Board and office staff for helping make the second annual CARA-NARA summit possible.



IBEW 1245 retirees from Nevada and California met in Reno on July 24 to coordinate strategy in their on-going effort to grow the Retiree Club and use it as a platform to protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Retirees attending the Advisory Council meeting on July 25 were, standing from left: Tom (T-bird) Bird, Mike Grimm, Bob Vieira, Bill Wallace, Larry Darby, Mel Hambrick, Ron Borst. Sitting, from left: Ken Rawles, Tom Young, Rita Weisshaar, Anna Bayless-Martinez, and Art Freitas. Not pictured: Mike Hall and Pete Bousal

## IBEW 1245 and NARA Retirees Attend Annual Legislative Conference

**M**embers of the Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans (NARA) attended the Alliance for Retired Americans Legislative Conference in Washington DC July 7-10.

Thursday, July 9 was the Congressional Lobby Day. This is the first year that NARA visited every Nevada Congressman and Woman representing Nevada. NARA President and Local 1245 retiree Tom Bird lead groups of members to every office.

"It was a mad rush maneuvering the underground system and running from one building and floor to another," Bird noted, "but we had an important message to tell Congress."

Bird and his fellow retirees told the members of Congress that they were concerned about the bickering, calling on them to get down to business and do the job they were elected to do — serving the people of Nevada. The retirees also urged Congress to enhance Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and support our Vets. They left copies of the Social Security Works book at offices along with packets of cards signed by Medicare supporters who attended NARA's two recent Retirement Forums.

During the conference, Carolyn Williams, IBEW International Civic and Community Director, arranged a breakfast meeting between the IBEW

leadership who attended the Conference with the International's Chief Lobbyist and IBEW International Communications Specialist Len Shindel.

Bird and fellow IBEW 1245 retiree Rita Weisshaar, who serves as Vice President of NARA, also had the opportunity to tour IBEW International Headquarters after the conference was over. The highlight of the tour was spending time with new International IBEW International President Lonnie Stephenson. Bird presented President Stephenson with the first cap in his collection as President. The Cap represents the IBEW 1245 Retirees.



Back row, from left: NARA Pres. Tom Bird, Madelyn Bird, Sue Bird, Laura Leavitt of AFSCME, NARA VP Rita Weisshaar, Ben Weisshaar, Ray Tenant, Rev. Kenneth Baker. Seated, from left: Congresswoman Dina Titus and Corraan Baker, AFSCME Sub Chapter #153 President.



# Santa Rosa Retirees Help Victim of Rocky Fire

It all started when IBEW 1245 PG&E retiree out of San Jose, Nancy Landeros, saw a name she recognized in a newspaper article. As the first reports of the devastation and loss of homes caused by the Rocky Fire in Lower Lake hit the news, the name she recognized was that of fellow IBEW 1245 retiree Willem "Bill" Hilbrandie.

Hilbrandie had been the lone Gas Service Representative in Boron for many years, and spent a great deal of time down in Bakersfield doing Meter Reading. He had moved to his home located on his sister Dini's property in Lake County on Rocky

Creek Rd. in 1991. Last week, when they returned home from some routine shopping, Hilbrandie noticed the fire progressing in the surrounding areas. Soon after, the Fire Chief told him and his sister they had five minutes to evacuate. They quickly gathered what they could, grabbed their cell phones, some important paperwork and their four dogs, and went to the evacuation site. Hilbrandie thought it would be for just a night or so, but, to his dismay, he soon discovered that all the structures on his sister's property — including their homes — had been destroyed.

**IBEW 1245 is encouraging all units to take up a collection for Brother Bill Hilbrandie. He needs the support from his IBEW 1245 family to help him rebuild. Contributions can be sent electronically at [www.gofundme.com/87v62bcg](http://www.gofundme.com/87v62bcg) or by mail to Bill Hilbrandie, PO BOX 1531, Lower Lake, CA 95457.**

When Nancy Landeros read in the paper that Hilbrandie's family had lost everything, she jumped into action and got on the phone with the Union Hall.

The Hall quickly got a hold of Ken Rawles, Santa Rosa Retirees Club Recording Secretary, who quickly jumped into action and devised a plan. First, Rawles immediately contacted retiree Dean "Red" Ohlen who lives on the Lake County and asked him to try and locate Hilbrandie (no easy feat given the remote location of Hilbrandie's property). Ohlen researched articles and newspapers until he was able to find one of Hilbrandie's neighbors who had his cell phone number.

Then, Rawles contacted all the retirees on his Club roster and took up a collection for Hilbrandie and his family. In less than a weeks' time, Rawles had collected over \$600 in donations from fellow retirees. Ohlen coordinated with Hilbrandie to find a day and time to meet up, and on Aug. 12, with the Rocky Fire still burning and the new Jerusalem Fire raging right next to it, Ohlen and his wife, met with Hilbrandie and his sister in Lower Lake to hand over the Retiree Club donations. Both were taken aback and overwhelmed by the generosity and well wishes coming forth from Local 1245 retirees during this terrible time.

Notwithstanding the difficult circumstances Hilbrandie and his sister are enduring. Their optimism, thankfulness and tremendous gratitude for all they still have and for all those helping them out shined through. When Hilbrandie asked how the heck anyone found him because of his remoteness, Ohlen recounted the entire story of how this day came about, and said, with the utmost sincerity, "It is a Brotherhood of



From left: Dean "Red" Ohlen, Willem "Bill" Hilbrandie, Julie Ohlen and Bill's sister Dini

Electrical Workers."

Hilbrandie definitely thanked the IBEW and all of the union folks, including Nancy Landeros, Ken Rawles and Red Ohlen, who jumped into action on their behalf, but also very much wanted to acknowledge the following:

- Their wonderful community and close neighbors who have helped so much,
- The Firefighters and CDF Crews, along with our active PG&E and Out-

side Line 1245 members, who worked around the clock to respond to these devastating fires, and

- The local SPCA of Clear Lake who came through for all the animal owners displaced with supplies and food for their furry loved ones.

Hilbrandie and his family can use all the help they can get, so please give if you can. Contributions can be made at [www.gofundme.com/87v62bcg](http://www.gofundme.com/87v62bcg).

—JV Macor, IBEW 1245 Business Rep

## Retiree Club meeting changes

The complete IBEW 1245 Retiree Club meeting schedule can be found at [ibew1245.com/ibew-1245-retirees-club/](http://ibew1245.com/ibew-1245-retirees-club/)

**North Bay Chapter:** 1st Tuesday of each month, 10 a.m., at Sam's For Play Cafe, 2630 Cleveland Ave, Santa Rosa, CA (new location). \*December 2015 meeting will begin at 9:30am.

## Reno-Sparks Retirees Donate Fans to Low-Income Seniors

Reno-Sparks area triple-digit temperatures in late summer aren't uncommon. Unfortunately, many seniors simply cannot afford to pay for air conditioning, and the sweltering heat makes summertime uncomfortable and downright dangerous for low-income seniors.

After seeing a local TV station urging individuals to donate electric fans for seniors, IBEW 1245 retiree and Reno-Sparks Retirees Club President Ron Borst challenged the other members of his retirees club to get involved in the

effort. He called on them to bring fans to the group's monthly meeting in July. The retirees only had three days notice but managed to bring in 21 fans, which they proceeded to donate to Washoe County Senior Services, an organization providing support and resources to low-income seniors in the Reno-Sparks area.

"We're the lucky ones. We had a good union contract to work under and now we have a good retirement," said Borst, "and if we can help others out who weren't so fortunate, through no fault of their own, that's what we should do."

## 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, 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!

Angelina Adams 18 years Concord, CA	Karen Amaral 29 years San Leandro, CA	Ronald Bastiaans 31 years Pinole, CA	Bennie Blake 34 years Oakland, CA	William Blevins 45 years Barstow, CA
Betty Aldama 43 years Hughson, CA	Rose Ancheta 37 years Walnut Creek, CA	Terry Bates 41 years Modesto, CA		
Michael Alexander 29 years Livermore, CA	Ricky Arnold 31 years Plumas Lake, CA	Vicki Besse 32 years Idaho Falls, ID		
David Alsen 9 years Sutherland, OR	Antonio Arriaga 42 years Richmond, CA	Hugh Bishop 27 years Auberry, CA		

continued on page 36

**STAY CONNECTED**  
through the IBEW Retirees Club



Retirees serve lunch at Reno Senior Center



# ADVISORY COUNCIL



Business Manager Tom Dalzell congratulates Mike Davis for his many years of service to IBEW 1245, while Mike Cottrell, Art Freitas and Anna Bayless-Martinez look on.

## Union Thanks Outgoing President Mike Davis for His Years of Service

Mike Davis, who recently retired as president of IBEW 1245, received a standing ovation at Advisory Council in Reno on July 25 for his long service to the union.

Business Manager Tom Dalzell lauded Davis for leading the union into a new era of fiscal strength and for supporting new avenues of member participation, including the creation of safety stewards and organizing stewards.

“The Executive Board, and especially the president, have a very important and unrecognized role. They help guide us,” Dalzell said.

“My career in the union began five days after I hired on,” said Davis. “Lee Thomas said, ‘You’re the new kid—here are your papers, sign ‘em.’” That was in June of 1967, and Lee Thomas happened to be president of the union at that time. Little did he know that he was signing up the member who would someday follow him in that role.

Two years after joining the union Davis became a shop steward, a position he held throughout his career at

PG&E. He has served the union in several elected positions, from Southern Area Executive Board, to Treasurer, to Vice President, until becoming President in 2004.

Davis, a graduate of the UC Berkeley Labor Studies program, represented IBEW 1245 as a delegate to many California Labor Federation conventions, to Nevada State AFL-CIO meetings, and to many IBEW Ninth District Progress meetings, among others. As President he represented the local as a delegate to the 38th IBEW International Convention. He also served as a delegate to the South Bay Labor Council—for over 40 years.

For all his many accomplishments, and his selfless devotion to our union, IBEW 1245 thanks President Mike Davis, our union brother forever.



Mike Davis, left, is the second-longest serving president in the history of IBEW 1245, holding office since 2004. The plaque presented to him by Business Manager Tom Dalzell notes: “We are stronger and more effective today because of Mike’s foresight and courage.”

## Advisory Council Honors TMWA Member Chip Chadwick

Chip Chadwick was honored at the IBEW 1245 Advisory Council meeting in Reno on July 25 for his service to the union cause.

“Chip has been the heart, the soul and the face of 1245 at Truckee Meadow Water Authority,” said Business Manager Tom Dalzell in presenting the plaque.

“He has been everything we could ever have in terms of being a steward. He has represented his members in a

way that exemplifies what trade unionism is,” Dalzell said, who noted that Chadwick has agreed to continue as an organizing steward in his retirement.

Chadwick, who has twice attended the Rocky Mountain Labor School, said that other unions marvel at IBEW 1245’s accomplishments in an era when many unions are struggling to hold their own.

“1245 has given us some good contracts and my passion has been to keep what we have,” Chadwick said.



Chip Chadwick accepts a plaque of appreciation from Business Manager Tom Dalzell.



William Goodman gets sworn in as a member of the Advisory Council

Photos by John Storey

## Rachel Ramirez-Hill Gets Sworn in as New Recording Secretary

IBEW 1245 President Art Freitas swears in Rachel Ramirez-Hill as the union’s new recording secretary at the Advisory Council meeting in Reno on July 25. Ramirez-Hill served briefly as the Central Area member on the Executive Board, to replace Anna Bayless-Martinez, who recently became vice president. But there was a pressing

need for a new recording secretary after the recent death of Chris Habecker and Ramirez-Hill was tapped for this important assignment. Her experience includes serving as an Organizing Steward and also on the Advisory Council as the PG&E Clerical-at-Large member from the Central Area. Congratulations Sister Rachel!



## Advisory Council Members Volunteer at Evelyn Mount Food Bank in Reno



The volunteers from Local 1245 pose for a photo at the Evelyn Mount Food Bank

Photos by John Storey



Advisory Council members Dan Mayo and James Hayes team up to haul canned goods



Advisory Council members Cloude Douglas and Jaime Tinoco do some heavy lifting at the Evelyn Mount Food Bank



## SERVICE AWARDS

### Monterey/Salinas June 5, 2015



**35 Years**  
From left: Amante Buentipo, IBEW 1245 President Art Freitas, Lula Dodd, and Paul Scherer.



**30 Years** From left: (Freitas) with David Sieling.



**25 Years** From left: Richard Baca, (Freitas), Karen Gwara, and David Crawford.



**10 Years** From left: Filemon Gonzalez, Chris McLaughlin, and (Freitas).  
Photos by John Storey

## HONOREES

### 45 Years

Bullard, William

### 35 Years

Buentipo, Amante  
Dare, John  
Dillon, Michael  
Dodd, Lula  
Henderson, Martin  
Hicok, Darrel  
Jones, Joy  
Markoe, Kevin  
Miyamoto, Martin  
Olea, David  
Scherer, Paul

Stowell, Douglas  
Walton, Richard

### 30 Years

Camera, Johnny  
Detwiler, Don  
Echeveria, Michael  
Estrada, Grant  
Jarschke, Carl  
Lam, Charles  
Lopez Jr., Ralph  
Meyer, Frederick  
Romero, Elizabeth  
Sieling, David  
Silva, Robert  
Turnipseed, Paul

### 25 Years

Allen, Max  
Baca, Richard  
Barker, Casey  
Calender, Kendall  
Crawford, David  
Gwara, Karen  
Jorgensen, Robert  
Patterson, Michael  
Smallwood, William

### 20 Years

Adams, Donald  
Curtis, Craig  
Divens, Christopher

Laws, Christoph  
Vermilyer, John

### 15 Years

Davila, Ernie  
Douglass, Dennis  
Locatelli, Mark  
Razzecca, Michael  
Salkauskas, Casey  
Sissom, Adam  
Ursino, Theodore  
Velasquez, Tony

### 10 Years

Barba, Alejandro  
Bautista, Ramiro  
Bribiescas, Agustin  
Brunelle, Michael  
Buentipo, Amante

Contreras, Guadalupe  
Gil, Jose  
Gonzalez, Filemon  
Grabeel, Joseph  
Greco II, Frank  
Hasbrook, Daniel  
Kerwin, Dan  
McLaughlin, Christopher  
Munoz, Mauricio  
Murillo, Daniel  
Ortiz, Cruz  
Perez Duran, Roberto  
Ramirez, Humberto  
Ramirez, Juan  
Ramirez, Prudencio  
Rice, Christopher  
Sandoval, Bernardo  
Scott, Dave  
Sierra, Ramon

Soria, Jorge  
Utterback, James  
Villalobos, Librado  
Wade, Matthew

### 5 Years

Alfaro, Miguel  
Alvarado, Juan  
Clark, Tom  
Gramespacher, Terrie  
Jones, Tyler  
Lopez-Vera, Eugenio  
Lundtvedt, Gary  
Miller, Weston  
Newton, Michael  
Ramirez, Francisco  
Sanford, Joseph  
Sullivan, Kevin  
Urbina, Lou



**5 Years** From left: Gary Lundtvedt and (Freitas).

*Congratulations on your service!*



Senior Utility Operator Curtis McCauley takes samples at the Shelter Cove water treatment plant.



Utility Worker Brandon Craig cuts the grass at the golf course.



Utility Operator Bud Lair communicates with other members of his team.



Electric Utility Superintendent Todd Nuse checks the backup generators.



Team picture of the IBEW members that work in Shelter Cove (Resort Improvement District #1).



Todd Nuse and Brian Speelman (off-camera at left) work together to put up a welcome sign in Shelter Cove.

## Off the Be

*IBEW 1245 members maintain the*

By Rebecca Band  
Photos by John Storey

Popular among avid fishermen, retirees and eco-tourists alike, the tiny resort enclave of Shelter Cove is truly a hidden gem of Northern California.

Located 90 miles away from the nearest city, deep inside the King Range, Shelter Cove is definitely off the beaten path. But its spectacular charter fishing, giant redwoods, black sand beaches and quaint B&Bs make Shelter Cove a quintessential Lost Coast destination.

Most who choose to travel or retire here are looking to get away from it all, while still enjoying all of the amenities they're accustomed to, including the basics like electricity and clean, running water.

But those essential utilities would cease to function without Shelter Cove's dedicated team of public service workers, proud members of IBEW local 1245. The seven members that keep Shelter Cove running are employed by Resort Improvement District #1 (RID), a special-purpose district established 50 years ago for the purpose of installing and maintaining wastewater, water distribution and electrical utility services for the Shelter Cove Sea Park Subdivision. IBEW local 1245 has represented the RID workers for the past 20 years.

Typically, a utility crew would be significantly bigger, with highly specific roles and classifications. But the RID is a different kind of utility, with a different kind of crew. Each member has a spe-

cific assignment, but they never hesitate to help each other out.

"There are no specialists or prima donnas at the RID; everyone pitches in when the chips are down to fix whatever needs fixing," said IBEW 1245 Business Representative JV Macor. "Everyone falls into their roles respectively and respectfully of each other."

### Never Boring

Construction Superintendent Brian Speelman has worked for RID at Shelter Cove for 20 years. The team he works with are a small but dedicated group of jacks-of-all-trades, on hand to address every type of maintenance issue that may come up. Every day is different, and most of the time when he goes to work, there's at least one surprise task in store for him.

"Today, we started out with trying to get some water pump stations back online, and get some chlorine residuals straightened out, you know, water clarity issues. Then we shifted gears and went to hang up a banner for an upcoming event for the local community here... then we ran into an issue with one of our underground vaults that needed some immediate attention," Speelman said. "We never know what we're gonna hit for the day. We plan for everything, and we very seldom get to stick to our plan."

Speelman was originally hired as a lineman and worked with the electrical crew, but his experience and background in the logging industry allowed him to transition into general construc-



# Beaten Path

the resort community of Shelter Cove

tion as well. He still works with the line crew whenever they need him and does some line clearance tree trimming as well. He also helps other members take care of the golf course, the airport, the water treatment plant and all of the wastewater collection systems. It's no small job, but Speelman and the men enjoy the variety.

"It's challenging...you never know what your job for the day is, and it's never boring," he said, likening it to going into a three-ring circus. "You keep your head down and you get the job done, but you never know what it's going to be."

## No Easy Feat

Providing these essential services in Shelter Cove comes with an enormous set of challenges, most notably the rough terrain and remote locale.

"We have a large service area but a small customer base, with roughly 50 miles of overhead and 4.5 miles of underground power lines, 44 miles of water lines, 27 miles of sewer and 4,500 lots but only 600 customers," Speelman said. "Our terrain around here is rather difficult; we go from sea level to about 2,400 feet in a short distance, and we've got a lot of pressure zones on our water system that make it extremely difficult [to maintain]."

But those challenges are what the RID guys like most about their jobs. These experienced crew members know exactly what to do and how to do it, so the locals and tourists never have to worry

about whether they'll have access to clean water and reliable power.

These unsung heroes take an incredible amount of pride in the work that they do.

"It makes you feel good to go back home at the end of the day knowing that you got everybody back up and running," said Speelman. "We make it look easy, but it's really not."

## A Sense of Brotherhood

Before he came to Shelter Cove, Speelman was an IBEW member in Alaska, which he says gave him "a really good sense of brotherhood." He is proud to be a lifelong IBEW member, and never hesitates to say that whenever he hears other people bad-mouthing unions.

"The benefits of being in the union are 110% more than what people realize... I came off the street and went to work, and I was immediately accepted into that brotherhood," he said, noting how much the union has provided for him, both personally and professionally.

"The money that we made, the benefit packages, it made all the difference in the world compared to the other trades I've worked in. Having a little bit of extra money in your pocket, being able to settle down and have a family, doing the work that you feel comfortable and are qualified to do, it's just meant a lot to me."

*John Storey contributed to this report.*

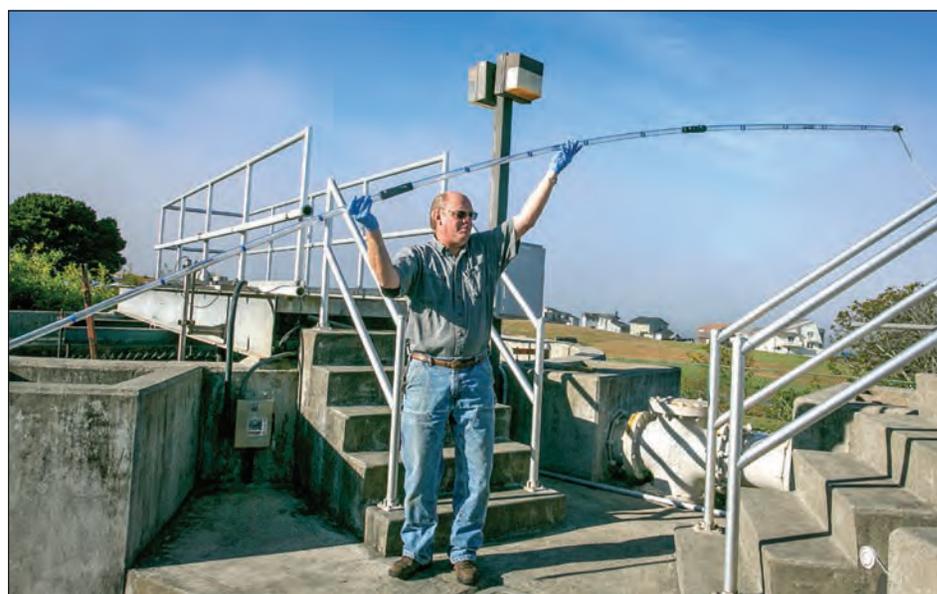
See more photos at:  
<http://bit.ly/1NocqLo>



Utility Operator Bud Lair assesses a water sample.



Capital Construction Superintendent Brian Speelman pulls a sample to check the water quality.



The water treatment plant services 27 miles of sewer lines through difficult terrain.



Brian Speelman on his way to another project.

## Union Assists OSHA in Two Tree Accident Investigations

We assisted OSHA in two tree accident investigations this month. Both accidents resulted in serious injury to union brothers of the local. Both suffered broken pelvises. Buckingham 601 porta-wraps were involved in both, although more so with the more serious of the two accidents.

With the more serious injury it is not clear yet what happened. The investigation by OSHA continues, but it appears the load was not under control while the porta-wrap was being used. The log being lowered got away from the man lowering it and he was struck by the log, severely breaking his pelvis and causing internal injury.

In the other accident, an attempt was made to lower a man with the porta-wrap, against the manufacturer's recommendation. The man appears to have fumbled his knot and fell between 15 and 35 five feet (reports differ). In both cases, adequate training may have prevented the accidents. Of course there were also other contributing factors, and these accidents are still under investigation. Porta-wraps are very useful tools when used by properly trained individuals, but when used improperly they can be very dangerous.

We have recently had more than one report of individuals photographing co-workers breaking safety rules and turning the pictures over to management. These safety violations would have been great opportunities to be your brother's keeper and offer safety advice to co-workers, but appear instead to have been used to garner points with management. We have also heard reports of ineffective supervisors allowing "yard bullies" to dictate who gets what work. The more difficult work, difficult customers or poison oak-covered trees went to those outside their clique. We are addressing these issues, but such behavior hardly seems to be appropriate among brothers.

Most of the Line Clearance Tree Trimming companies are overloaded with work at present and into the foreseeable future; there is all the overtime anyone could want, and more. Vacations have been difficult to schedule for the last two years and are getting harder to schedule. One solution might be to hire more trimmers. The problem is that the training needed for new workers does not appear to be in the budget.

### Asplundh Tree Expert

Crews are back from working the Eastern side of Nevada. The company now has more crews together since the startup of the contract. Things seem to be running smoothly at NV Energy.

### Davey Tree Surgery

Most headquarters are on 10-hour schedules. We are still having a few vacation issues that continue to come up. The company has implemented a

policy requiring employees to place gear in their buckets at the end of the day. All bucket trucks are to be extended with their gear in it; we see this as a bigger problem. We expect to set a GRC in September to resolve the majority of our issues system-wide.

The company has asked the union to help them with their Safety issues and to go to all their yards and talk to our members. Rich Lane and the business Reps will try to help them.

Davey has received a lot of CEMA work in the Los Padres Division and some in Central Coast. They are working lots of overtime.

### Mario Tree Service

They have two crews working for Trees Inc. in the Fresno Division, doing CEMA work. We hear that they have some crews working for Wright Tree Service up in the north towards Fortuna. They are working 5/10's and on Saturdays to keep ahead of the work given to them.

### Mowbray

SMUD/PG&E – The company is up and running on SMUD. We have a few members still waiting to get hired soon. We have a few grievances with the employer and expect to have all matters discussed at the next GRC meeting yet to be scheduled. Davey Tree has been utilizing Mowbray to help them with their production goals. This has been going on system-wide.

### Osmose

We have met up with some of their crews working in the Stockton Division. They were staying in a motel off Hwy 12 and I-5. No issues.

### Windy Tree

We met with crews at their yard in **continued on page 26**

## Sindicato Colaborado con OSHA en Dos Investigaciones de Accidentes

Este mes hemos colaborado con OSHA en dos investigaciones de accidentes de poda de árboles. En ambos accidentes dos hermanos del Local del Sindicato sufrieron lesiones graves. Ambos tuvieron fractura de pelvis. Los accidentes ocurrieron con el descensor (port-a-wrap) Buckingham 601, sobre todo el más grave de los dos accidentes. Aún no está claro cómo sucedió el accidente de la lesión más grave. La investigación de OSHA continúa, pero aparentemente la carga no estaba bajo control mientras se estaba utilizando el descensor. La persona que estaba bajando el tronco perdió el control y fue golpeado por el tronco, fracturando gravemente su pelvis y ocasionando lesiones internas. En el otro accidente, se estaba intentando bajar a un hombre utilizando el descensor, en contra de la recomendación del fabricante. Aparentemente el hombre noató bien el nudo y cayó una distancia entre 4.6 m y 10.7 m (15 y 35 pies), (los informes difieren). En ambos casos, una capacitación adecuada pudiera haber prevenido los accidentes. Por supuesto, también hubo otros factores que contribuyeron, y estos accidentes están todavía bajo investigación. Los descensores son herramientas muy útiles cuando los utilizan personas debidamente capacitadas, pero cuando se utilizan incorrectamente pueden ser muy peligrosos.

Recientemente hemos recibido más de un informe sobre personas que fotografían a los compañeros de trabajo cuando incumplen las reglas de seguridad y que luego entregan las fotos a la gerencia. Estas violaciones de seguridad podrían haber sido excelentes oportunidades de ser guardianes de sus hermanos y ofrecer consejos sobre seguridad a sus compañeros de trabajo, pero en lugar de eso, parece que se utilizan para ganar puntos con la gerencia. También hemos escuchado informes sobre supervisores ineficaces que permiten que algunos "matones de patio"

decidan quién obtiene qué trabajo. Los trabajos más difíciles, como por ejemplo los clientes difíciles o los árboles cubiertos con roble venenoso se los asignan a los que están fuera de su camarilla. Estamos abordando estos asuntos, pero ese comportamiento no parece muy apropiado entre hermanos.

La mayor parte de las compañías de poda de árboles para el despeje de líneas están sobrecargadas de trabajo actualmente y en el futuro previsible; hay disponible todo el sobre tiempo que alguien pudiera desear, y más. En los últimos dos años ha sido difícil programar las vacaciones y cada vez es más difícil. Una solución es contratar más podadores. El problema es que la capacitación necesaria para los nuevos trabajadores no parece estar incluida en el presupuesto.

### Asplundh Tree Expert

Las cuadrilla están trabajando nuevamente en el lado oriental de Nevada. La compañía tiene ahora más cuadrillas desde que se inició el contrato. Todo parece estar funcionando sin problemas en NV Energy.

### Davey Tree Surgery

La mayoría de las oficinas centrales tienen horarios de 10 horas. Todavía estamos teniendo algunos problemas de vacaciones que continúan surgiendo. La compañía ha implementado una política que exige a los empleados colocar sus equipos dentro de las cestas al final del día. Todas las grúas deben extender los brazos con los equipos adentro; creemos que ocasiona un mayor problema. Esperamos programar una reunión del Comité de Revisión de Quejas en septiembre para resolver la mayoría de nuestros asuntos pendientes a lo largo de todo el sistema.

La compañía ha pedido ayuda al sindicato con sus problemas de seguridad, y pidió que fueran a todos sus patios a hablar con nuestros miembros.

**continúa en la página 27**

## Meet the IBEW 1245 Health & Safety Committee



**Get to know the members of the union's Health & Safety Committee** by visiting [ibew1245.com/local-1245-safety-committee/](http://ibew1245.com/local-1245-safety-committee/). Back row, from left: Business Rep Rich Lane, Dane Moore (PG&E), Al White (PG&E), Mike Gomes (Modesto Irrigation District) and Carlos Rodriguez (Utility Tree Service). Front row, from left: Dan Boschee (Frontier Communications), Mark Flanders (SMUD), Senior Assistant Business Manager Ralph Armstrong and Joe Joaquim (PG&E). Photo by John Storey

# IBEW 1245 Donates Safety Supplies to Linemen in Suriname

When IBEW 1245 leaders and members learned about fellow IBEW member Brady Hansen's program to provide much-needed safety training and supplies to linemen in the impoverished South American country of Suriname, they felt compelled to do all that they can to support Hansen's effort.

The union immediately decided to begin collecting tools and safety equipment to donate to the Surinamese linemen, who work in treacherous conditions without any of the protective gear that American linemen take for granted. For more than six months, Local 1245 members at PG&E, SMUD and NV Energy have been partnering with their employers to gather all the supplies they

could possibly collect in order to make a grand donation to the Surinamese.

"Sharing supplies and knowledge with the Surinamese linemen is the right thing to do," said Pat Waite, Local 1245 business representative who represents workers at NV Energy. "I'm really proud we have partnered with this program."

On July 21, union staff and members loaded up the donated supplies into shipping containers at the PG&E Fresno materials warehouse and prepared them to be sent to Suriname. The shipment included 300 pairs of EH rated boots from PG&E which were nearly new. PG&E lineman and grass roots leader Fred Cincera got the company's safety glasses manufacturer to

donate more than 1,000 pairs of new safety glasses.

While everyone made a concerted effort to pitch in, the members and management at PG&E went above and beyond.

"This could not have happened without the tremendous support of PG&E senior leadership and the PG&E Ergo Committee, made up of our members," noted IBEW 1245 Assistant Business Manager Bob Gerstle.

This mass donation is just the first part of the union's effort to support Hansen's program in Suriname. This fall, a delegation from IBEW 1245, including Adam Weber and Samson Wilson from NV Energy, Anthony Albright from PG&E, Carl Keehn from



More than 1,000 pairs of safety glasses were donated

SMUD, Outside Lineman James Scott and union staffers Bob Gerstle, Ralph Kenyon, Rich Lane and Abel Sanchez will be travelling on a mission to Suriname to serve as instructors at the Lineman School that Hansen has set up there.

From left: Rich Ingle, Local 1245 Business Representative; Pat Waite, Local 1245 Business Representative; Samson Wilson, Electric Lineman; John Owens, Vice President of Gas Delivery; Ryan Bellows, Director of Labor Relations, and Enders Gomez, Utility Material Specialist helped prepare and load safety gear in Nevada. Photo via NV Energy



# Third Annual Control the Pressure Gas Safety Summit Focuses on Learning From Peers

By Rich Lane

The Control the Pressure peer-to-peer committee held their third annual safety stewards summit on August 12 at the IBEW 1245 hall. The agenda included a presentation of testimonials, a workshop on valve changing equipment and tailboards, and a breakout session by classification which enabled safety stewards to focus on issues specific to their work duties.

The 32 attendees covered a wide range of topics, including an extensive discussion surrounding the remediation of asbestos wraps in the field and possible exposure. Nevada Energy peer members shared their procedures with PG&E members. According to the safety stewards from PG&E, asbestos remediation procedures are not a set-

tled training matter.

The presentation portion of the program gave members a chance to candidly discuss incidents in order to learn from one another's experiences. Committee member Adam Weber described an incident in which he and an apprentice were working in a six-foot hole on the final steps of a 90 lb. valve replacement. A brass part provided by the manufacturer was the improper size, so when the part was seated and the valve opened there was an uncontrollable release.

"The noise was so loud all I could do was cover my ears," Weber recalled to the group. "Luckily, there was a valve nearby in the trench and as I was turning the handle all I could think of is this thing is going to light off." Weber also

reported that the manufacturer denied its role in providing the part that was the cause of the release.

Committee Chairman Ernie Pena informed the group of the employee emergency notification program that PG&E is currently developing. The program is designed to notify PG&E employees of specific locations where employees have been threatened or assaulted, in order to prevent other employees from going into those same areas without notice. The phone notification program has been in place with gas service for two years, and a company-wide program is under review by the Chairman's Safety Council. The overall hope is to turn this program out to OMC and other lines of business in the future.



Committee Chair Ernie Pena

The CTP peer program continues to grow. Additional safety stewards will be joining the program in the near future. In September, all new safety stewards will be trained by committee members on their duties and then installed.

*Rich Lane is business representative for the Peer Safety Program.*



Gas Safety Stewards at the Control the Pressure Summit

# Wildfire Challenges Modesto Irrigation District Line Crews

by Mike Gomes

**O**n June 18, a large fire broke out in a rural part of the Modesto Irrigation District service area that burned nine distribution and transmission poles. The fire raced through open areas and was so extensive that it destroyed six homes and crossed three counties in an area near Modesto and Escalon, also jumping the Stanislaus River.

IBEW 1245 line crews stood by while firefighters worked to extinguish the fire, but the crews were later sent home because firefighters would not allow them to access the area. When the crews did finally gain access, there was a lot of smoke and ash in the air and fumes from burned poles and vegetation were extremely toxic. The crew members had a physical reaction to the high heat and toxic smoke, resulting in nausea and vomiting. The airborne ash got into equipment and clothing, making

breathing very difficult.

Due to the rare occurrence of such conditions, there was no advance planning by the company for conditions the crews were working under. They were subject to extreme heat, and in some instances workers' shoes actually melted. The linemen's attitude to "get the job done under extreme adverse conditions" may have contributed to the greater-than-average exposure.

The crews communicated their concerns to management and requested better off-site staging in a clean area with access to water and food, along with a short rest to eat and recuperate after a break. This rare event was a good learning experience for all, as the dry conditions that existed this summer create the potential for future events that may cause another large fire situation.

*Mike Gomes is a member of IBEW 1245's Health and Safety Committee.*



## City of Oakland Agreement Ratified

By Al Fortier

**O**n August 27, the IBEW 1245 members unanimously ratified a new agreement with the City of Oakland.

The 24-month agreement will be in effect from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 and includes an 8% general wage increase over the term, along with a 1% bonus. The agreement also has increased acting pay, increased compensatory leave, increased medical in-lieu pay, a commercial driver's license premium, a clothing allowance and improved leave benefits.

*Al Fortier is an IBEW 1245 business rep.*

### Tree Report, from page 24

Oakdale. We were asked about vacation issues and progression issues. We talked with supervision and it seems things are going smoothly.

### Pacific Coast Tree Experts

They have two crews working for Utility Tree in the Bay Area. The owner says that he has been awarded work with Southern Cal Edison, and that is his focus right now.

### Trees Inc.

We are preparing for the final GRC in September. Routine work is winding down in a major way, although project work is continuing to work its way to the crews in San Joaquin. All hands are working 10-hour days now and volunteer shifts on Saturdays.

They have Mario's Tree Service doing CEMA work in the hills for them. They also have a lot of work in hand. They hired four new employees in the last month.

### Utility Tree Service

The next GRC is expected for September. All hands are working 10-hour schedules in the Bay, and Sacramento Valley. They are having several vacation issues that we are dealing with.

The company has a lot of work in hand. Apparently they are behind schedule and are asking everyone to work. They are saying that they cannot give employees vacation time off because they need to catch up. Employees are tired and mad that they cannot take time off when they want. It's been like this for 3 years.

### Wright Tree – SMUD/ PG&E Transmission

The company is running a very smooth operation with two GFs running the show at SMUD. The crews seem to be happy working for Wright Tree. Transmission has plenty of working going on in the bay.

# Third Annual SMUD Fishing Derby Honors Late IBEW Member Ken Barnes

The third annual Chief Red Cloud Fishing Derby, hosted by SMUD members and The Pollock Pines/Fresh Pond Unit #3912, was a rousing success. This year's event was dedicated to IBEW member Ken Barnes, who passed last year after working to help promote family recreation. He was a founder of the SEA campground, and has for years entertained the kids with his stories dedicated to native American folklore. The weekend-long event gives SMUD members and their families a chance to get away from it all and spend some time enjoying the splendor of the great outdoors. This year's attendance was up from the previous year, with 51 adults, 27 junior fishermen and 140 friends and family enjoying the dinner. The winners of the fishing derby were:

## Adult division

1st place: Floyd Darrow  
2nd place: Deanne Mikulin  
3rd place: Trevor Lamb

## Junior division

1st place: Jack Patterson  
2nd place: Naomi Goldsby  
3rd place: Patrick Lamb

"My favorite thing about the derby is that it's a family event with kids and their parents having a good time together. It's something that we don't see enough of in today's lifestyle," said Ray Curtis, unit chair and coordinator of the annual event.

"The IBEW members have supported this campground for years and it's a great family environment. It's the only place I know where the kids can have

the freedom to go and play and we don't have to worry about them because it really is a family community that looks after each other. We have made a lot of great friends up there and look forward to getting together each summer." Curtis said.



## Liberty Energy Planners Vote to Join Local 1245

By Pat Waite

The planners who work at Liberty Energy voted 5-1 last month to join IBEW 1245.

A group of Liberty Energy employees who were already 1245 members brought up the possibility of the planners joining the union at the North Lake Tahoe unit meeting in July 2015. Since the planner group works closely with the line crews, the members thought that the six planners at Liberty may want to join IBEW 1245.

Two of the planners are located in South Lake Tahoe, and four are in North Utility Reporter

Lake Tahoe. The seasoned members in the South and North talked with the potential new members and had them sign authorization cards for IBEW 1245 to represent them.

The union contacted the NLRB in last week of July to set up the union election. Ballots were sent out on August 7 and were counted on August 25. We are currently in discussions with the company to integrate the six new members into Liberty's existing collective bargaining agreement.

*Pat Waite is an IBEW 1245 business rep.*

## Informe Árbol, viene de la página 24

Rich Lane y los representantes de negocio intentarán ayudarles.

Davey ha recibido una gran cantidad de trabajo de CEMA en la División Los Padres y algunos trabajos en Central Coast. Están trabajando muchas horas de sobretiempo.

## Mario Tree Service

Tienen dos cuadrillas trabajando para Tress Inc. en la División de Fresno, ejecutando trabajo para CEMA. Hemos escuchado que tienen algunas cuadrillas trabajando para Wright Tree Service en el norte hacia Fortuna. Están trabajando 5/10 y los sábados para mantenerse al día con el trabajo que reciben.

## Mowbray

SMUD/PG&E – La compañía está en marcha y operando en SMUD. Algunos miembros todavía están esperando que los contraten pronto. Tenemos algunas quejas con el empleador y esperamos discutir todos los asuntos en la próxima reunión del Comité de Revisión de Quejas que está por programarse. Davey Tree ha estado utilizando a Mowbray para ayudar con sus metas de producción. Esto ha estado sucediendo a lo largo de todo el sistema.

## Osmose

Nos reunimos con algunas de sus cuadrillas que trabajan en la División de Stockton. Estaban alojados en un motel cerca de Hwy 12 y la I-5. Sin problemas.

## Windy Tree

Nos reunimos con las cuadrillas en su patio en Oakdale. Nos preguntaron sobre los temas de las vacaciones y los ascensos. Hablamos con los supervisores y parece que las cosas van bien.

## Pacific Coast Tree Experts

Tienen dos cuadrillas que trabajan

para Utility Tree en el Bay Area. El propietario dice que ha recibido trabajo de Southern Cal Edison, y que en este momento se está enfocando en eso.

## Trees Inc.

Nos estamos preparando para el Comité de Revisión de Quejas a finales de septiembre. El trabajo de rutina está disminuyendo de manera significativa, aunque las cuadrillas en San Joaquin continúan ejecutando trabajo de proyectos. Todos están ahora trabajando 10 horas al día y turnos de voluntarios los sábados.

Mario's Tree Service está ejecutando trabajos de CEMA en las colinas para ellos. También tienen bastante trabajo planificado. Contrataron a cuatro nuevos empleados en el último mes.

## Utility Tree Service

Se espera que la próxima reunión del Comité de Revisión de Quejas sea en septiembre. Todos están trabajando horarios de 10 horas en la bahía, y en Sacramento Valley. Están teniendo varios problemas de vacaciones que estamos manejando.

La compañía tiene mucho trabajo. Aparentemente están retrasados y le están pidiendo a todos que trabajen. Dicen que no le pueden dar vacaciones a los empleados porque tienen que ponerse al día con el trabajo programado. Los empleados están cansados y molestos por no poder tomar el tiempo libre cuando lo desean. Esta situación ha sido así durante 3 años.

## Wright Tree – SMUD/ PG&E Transmission

La Compañía está ejecutando una operación sin problemas con dos Capataces Generales dirigiendo las operaciones en SMUD. Las cuadrillas parecen estar contentas trabajando para Wright Tree. Hay bastante trabajo de líneas de transmisión en la bahía.



# SERVICE AWARDS

## Sacramento March 20, 2015

*Congratulations  
on your  
service!*



**55 Years** Former Business Manager Jack McNally (left), receives his 55-year award from Business Manager Tom Dalzell.



**50 Years** From left: Bob Choate with (Dalzell).



**45 Years** Darryl Norris.



**40 Years** From left: Carmen Quiroz, Paul Navarrete, and Linda Terrell.



**35 Years**  
Front row, from left: Daniel Perez, Steve Seaton, and Pete Martinez. Back row, from left: Patrick Coughlin, Bradford Chambers, and Carmon Hensley.



**30 years**  
Front row, from left: Judy Long and Michael Bazil. Back row, from left: Steve Brager, Michael Lightell, and James Wilhelm.



**30 years**  
Front row, from left: David Blenkhorn, Bonnie McCann, and Dan Carroll. Back row, from left: Jeff Dullum, Michael Green, and Ring Mohr.

## HONOREES

### 55 Years

McNally, John (Jack)

### 50 Years

Choate, Robert

### 45 Years

Norris, Darryl

### 40 Years

Brown, Samuel  
Center, Kevin  
Edgar, Roy  
Gacutan, Patricia  
Lyter, Jon  
Navarrete, Paul  
Quiroz, Carmen  
Terrell, Linda

### 35 Years

Bell, Timothy  
Burlison Jr.,  
Harvey  
Chambers,  
Bradford  
Cooper, Steve  
Coughlin, Patrick  
Culver, Thomas  
Dangerfield,  
Christina  
Dougherty,  
Charles  
Duarte, Jefferey  
Farris, Maria  
Ferguson, Terri  
Fox, Albert  
Galam, Rosie  
Garcia, Michael  
Gerstle, Bob  
Goody, Gary  
Hardison, James  
Hensley, Carmon  
Himman,  
Theodore  
Holt, Charles  
Jobe, Ronald  
Linnenbrink,  
Bart  
Lunney Jr,  
Robert

### 30 Years

Argenbright,  
Jason  
Askew, John  
Barrameda, Cecil  
Bazil, Michael  
Berg, Bruce  
Blenkhorn Jr.,  
David  
Brager, Steven  
Canavan, John  
Cantrell, Kevin  
Carroll Jr., Daniel  
Collins, Ronald  
Cottrell, Mike  
Croll, Karen  
Cuevas, Joe  
Dolcini, John  
Doweidt,  
Leonard  
Dullum, Jeffrey  
Dunkerson Jr.,  
James  
Embry, Jerry  
Embry, Thomas  
Engbretson,  
Bridget  
Feuerhelm, Kurt  
Garcia, Richard  
Gonzales,  
Timothy

### 25 Years

Adams,  
Raymond  
Allen, Grace  
Ampey, Gregory

Martinez, Pete  
Natad Sr., Gerald  
Nelson, Chris  
Neuburger,  
Donna  
O'Brien,  
Michelle  
Perez, Daniel  
Preciado, Robert  
Prior, Barry  
Seaton, Steve  
Strickland, Ricky  
Surber, Richard  
Theobald, Arthur  
Tolbert, Rebecca  
Wells, John  
Weyrens, Susan  
Winkler, Tony  
Witt, Alan  
Zickowski,  
Edward

Green, Michael  
Henry, Gary  
Hood, Jim  
Humphrey,  
James  
Jackson, Lonnie  
Jennings, Curt  
Jorden, Rudi  
Kelley, Terry  
Kistler, Carl  
Knodel, Darrell  
Langelier, David  
Lardner, Rex  
Lazzari, Barbara  
Lightell, Michael  
Long, Judy  
Manausa, Mark  
Martinez, Julian  
Martinez, Miguel  
Massey, Brett  
McBride, Andrew  
McCann, Bonnie  
Mechals, Hugh  
Medina, Jesse  
Moble, Lori  
Mohr, Rring  
Montenegro,  
Jesse  
Moore, Lois  
Morgan, Steven  
Pacheco, Oscar  
Padilla, Samuel  
Poole, Mark  
Shank, Douglas  
Smith, Bruce  
Sordi, Daria  
Stephenson,  
James  
Stokes, Steven  
Van Nostrand,  
Darren  
Vander Waal, Jeff  
Walke Jr.,  
Richard  
Weathers, Frank  
Wheeler, Jaime  
Wilhelm, James

Bailey, James  
Bewley, James  
Bishop, Marsha  
Borah, Tamara  
Botti, Craig  
Broker, Mike  
Busse, Lawrence  
Clarke, Jennifer  
Cotter, Frank  
Cox Jr., Floyd  
Espinosa,  
Repertson  
Ezell, Robert  
Havlik, Eugene  
Hill, Sean  
Hoff, Ronald  
Hughes, Beverley  
Irving Jr., William  
Jones, Kevin  
Luft, James  
McCoy, Allison  
McKinney, John  
Morgan, David  
Nguyen, Minh  
O'Brien, Mark  
Orlandi, Stephen  
Parker, Martin  
Roth, Curt  
Ruiz, Danny  
Smith, Neil  
Smith, Timothy  
Van Nieuwburg,  
Robert  
Velasquez, Peter  
Vidales, John  
Williams, Kendall

Ehrenberger,  
Dennis  
Fendley, James  
Gauci, Michael  
Gothier, Curtis  
Gunby, Gregory  
Hamby, Corinne  
Harrison, Richey  
Johnson, Micah  
Matthews Jr.,  
Lawrence  
Melton,  
Elizabeth  
Miller, Kenneth  
Purvis, Richard  
Reynolds,  
Rhonda  
Roediger, Rusty  
Scalzi, David  
Skillman, Daniel  
Stanley, Robert  
Thompson,  
David  
Vaughn, Kevin  
Webber, Edwin  
Wideman, James  
Wroblewski,  
Joshua

15 Years

Addison, Nicole  
Aguirre, Margo  
Barton, David  
Boorman, Bryan  
Cabral, David  
Carmier, Walter  
Coleman,  
Tamara  
Corpuz, Lesley  
Delacruz, Jose  
Drummond,  
Stephen  
Eldreth, Earl  
Fabila, David  
Frediani, Brian  
Freeman, David  
Frieling, Jesse  
Gallardo, Maria  
Guinn II, William  
Hartman,  
Richard  
Herrera, Salvador  
Hintze, Steve  
Hoang, Joe  
Ibarra, Armando  
Iverson, Freeman  
Johnson, Jacque

20 Years

Ade, Carl  
Aguilar, Christina  
Anderson,  
Shawn  
Appel, Arline  
Baird III, Robert  
Baker, Blake  
Beltran, Mark  
Berlinguet,  
Joseph  
Brewer, Anthony  
Brown, Stacy  
Bufford, James  
Cardenas,  
Rebecca  
Ciappa, Sean  
Cunnane,  
Timothy



### 30 years

Front row, from left: Jim Hood and Sam Padilla. Back row, from left: Lonnie Jackson, John Dolcini, and Darrell Knodel.



### 25 years

Front row, from left: Grace Allen and Marsha Bishop. Back row, from left: Greg Ampey and Robert Ezell.



### 25 years

Front row, from left: Tim Smith and Beverley Hughes. Back row, from left: Lawrence Busse, David Morgan, and Allison McCoy.



### 20 years

Front row, from left: Dennis Ehrenberger, Robert Stanley, and Rhonda Reynolds. Back row, from left: Kevin Vaughn Robert Baird, and Rusty Roediger.

Photos by John Storey



### 15 years

Front row, from left: Jamie Moore and Joe Hoang. Back row, from left: David Cabral Walter, Carmier, and Eric Ohlson.



### 10 years

Front row, from left: Robert Anderson, Serena Moss, and James Chatman Jr. Back row, from left: Steve Marcotte, Donald Laurie, and Sandra Henry-Munkres.



### 5 years

From left: Karla Mancina, (Dalzell), and Katherine Aguilera.

- |                      |                       |                       |                     |                     |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Johnson, Jerry       | Bok, Donavon          | Laurie, Donald        | Taylor, David       | Leister, Rhianna    |
| Kenobbie, James      | Boulet, Jon           | Littlefield Jr, Steve | Trimble, Dana       | Lewis-Moe, Jordan   |
| Kime, Brian          | Briscoe, David        | Lopez, Rene           | Valentine, Tavia    | Manan, Levi         |
| Ladd, Ralph          | Browning, Shellie     | Lord, David           | Vorhees, Josh       | Mancia, Karla       |
| Lemieux, Paul        | Casagrande, David     | Maese, Davina         | Whitmer, Brian      | Manezes, Joseph     |
| Lotito, Jennifer     | Case, Kory            | Marcotte, Steven      | Wilson, Matthew     | Manzella, Jason     |
| Luke, Esteban        | Chatman Jr, James     | Martin, Robert        | Wilson, Rodger      | Maria, Monique      |
| Luna, John           | Clapsadle, Jay        | Mascoe, Tiffany       | Wright, Jeremy      | Mariscal, Candido   |
| Luna, Renee          | Collins, Jefferson    | McGriff-Matta, Janine | Yadao-Rios, Lynette | Martin, Joshua      |
| MacFerren, Nina      | Contreras, Jose       | Medina, Veronica      |                     | Mason, Jessica      |
| Massey, Jason        | Cook, Darryl          | Mejia, Candelario     |                     | Mattix, Shane       |
| McCord, Brian        | Decker, Valerie       | Moe, John             |                     | McWhorter, Timothy  |
| Mohammed, Feroza     | Delgado, Adrian       | Molen, Mike           |                     | Middleton, Zachary  |
| Moore, Jamie         | Delgado, Jesse        | Moore, Michael        |                     | Miller, Brandon     |
| Nevarez, Eneadino    | Diaz Sr., Arturo      | Moore, Michael        |                     | Monelo, Micah       |
| O'Callaghan, Casey   | Dilorenzo, Marc       | Moreno, Ruben         |                     | Montano, Jose       |
| Ohlson, Eric         | Diolazo, Eduardo      | Mosley, Stacey        |                     | Montgomery, Tanner  |
| Oliveros, Felix      | Dixon, Eric           | Moss, Serena          |                     | Mora, Jorge         |
| Ortiz, Jonathan      | Duett, Shaun          | Murase, Marvin        |                     | Negrete, Juan       |
| Pena, Kathryn        | Edelman III, Frank    | Nelson, James         |                     | Ochoa, Jesus        |
| Pizzato, Jason       | Elliott, Luke         | Noblet, Jennifer      |                     | Oseguera, Jesus     |
| Price, Michael       | Escamilla, Adam       | Norton, Felicia       |                     | Pereda, Ivan        |
| Quitter, John        | Ferris II, Earl       | O'Brien, Ian          |                     | Perfler, Adrian     |
| Rice, Marvin         | Foster, Kenneth       | O'Brien, Michael      |                     | Place, Matthew      |
| Rist, Tyler          | Garcia, Kimberly      | Odom, Modoc           |                     | Ponce, Heriberto    |
| Santiago, Reuben     | Gilley, Sean          | Phan, Scott           |                     | Potts, Marc         |
| Simons, Diana        | Gomez, Faustino       | Placencia, Angela     |                     | Powell, Bradley     |
| Sutton, Joseph       | Gomez, Juan           | Prater, John          |                     | Preston, Jason      |
| Thom, David          | Gonzalez, Adam        | Quintana, Daniel      |                     | Ramirez, Luis       |
| Thomas, Christoph    | Grigsby, Ken          | Daniel, Darrell       |                     | Rand, Daniel        |
| Vannatta, Robert     | Gross, Garrett        | Evans, Steven         |                     | Rapadas, Daniel     |
| Vargas, Mayra        | Gutierrez, David      | Evans, Veronica       |                     | Rigg, Stuart        |
| Velasquez, Miguel    | Gutierrez, Victor     | Fetch, Rodney         |                     | Rosa, Mark          |
| Verrastro, Michael   | Hacker, Aaron         | Flores, Edward        |                     | Rosas, Juan         |
| Wessels, Van         | Hackett, Andrew       | Gass, Dana            |                     | Ruelas, Hilario     |
| Wojciechowski, Damon | Hamilton, Jeremy      | Gomez, Louis          |                     | Sandhu, Gurjit      |
| Yepez, Esperanza     | Hammond, Ralph        | Gonge, Craig          |                     | Santos, Kyle        |
|                      | Harris, Clinton       | Gutierrez, Anna       |                     | Scallon, Brian      |
|                      | Hartnett, Phillip     | Hall, Richard         |                     | Senecal, Rodney     |
|                      | Henry-Munkres, Sandra | Hampton, Preston      |                     | Shahan, Jeffrey     |
|                      | Jenkins, Christel     | Hernandez, Bryan      |                     | Shelton, Trueman    |
|                      | Johnston, Christopher | Hernandez, Walter     |                     | Sines-Ezell, Andrew |
|                      | Jones, Douglas        | Hummel, Jeffrey       |                     | Smith, Chris        |
|                      | Jones, Matthew        | Hutchison, Conner     |                     | Smith, Edward       |
|                      | Kam, Jennifer         | Inigues, Miguel       |                     | Struhs, James       |
|                      | Katzenstein, Wesley   | Jimenez, Louis        |                     | Thornton, Michael   |
|                      | Keeling, Paul         | Johnson, Guadalupe    |                     | Waters, Rodney      |
|                      | Kerste, Alman         | Jones Jr., Wilferd    |                     | Welty, Joshua       |
|                      | Key, Dionne           | Lavalle, Rodolfo      |                     | Wilson, David       |
|                      | Krause, Matt          | Leach, Robert         |                     | Yeisley, Jessica    |
|                      |                       |                       |                     | Yepez, Omar         |



John Stewart at Verdi Powerhouse

# Water on tap

Truckee Meadows Water Authority

By Eric Wolfe Photos by John Storey

Reno's water begins high in the Sierras, but it takes plenty of human ingenuity before that water reaches the tap. And for that, thank highly-skilled IBEW 1245 members employed by Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

The water comes from Lake Tahoe and other lakes and reservoirs in the Truckee River watershed. On the river's approach to Reno, some of the water is diverted and carried by flumes to three power houses that can generate up to 6.7 megawatts.

"That energy is really important for TMWA [pronounced TUM-wah] because it helps offset their energy costs to treat and distribute water here in Reno, Sparks and Washoe County," says John Stewart, an IBEW hydro operator at Verdi Powerhouse.

The on-going drought curtailed that power production for the summer, Stewart says, but

over the past two years TMWA's powerhouses have completely offset the costs of treating and pumping water—savings that get passed on to the TMWA's customers.

Contrary to what you might think, curtailing power production makes more work for hydro operators like Stewart.

"We're taking advantage of the opportunity to do a lot of maintenance projects you're not able to do when there's water in the river," he says.

Stewart joined IBEW in 2014 "after seeing things in the past that made me want to be part of this union's future—just how well they've done to negotiate our benefits, our pay increases."

"I know it's really hard out there, and people are struggling to get raises, and I feel that we're treated 100% fairly and that's due in part to the representation of our union."

## The Treatment

IBEW members don't just wrangle the Truckee River into the hydro plant, they're waiting downstream to tame that river into something you can welcome into your house. Ted Saxe is foreman of a four-man crew that runs the Chalk Bluff Water Treatment plant 24-hours a day in 12-hour shifts.

"We take water from the Truckee River, we clean it up and make it drinkable," says Saxe. In a process known as flocculation, particles are coaxed out of the water, which is then gravity fed through filters "to really clean it up."

A disinfectant—sodium hypochlorite—is added to meet legal requirements, but care is taken to not over-chlorinate, says Saxe.

"We take pride in what we do. We strive to put out a good product, even as far as how it tastes. Getting the water to the people with good pressure and good quality is the main thing. We take a lot of pride in that."

Saxe started at Sierra Pacific Power in 1985 as a meter reader, moved to the water side of the business in 1992, and stayed the course when TMWA took over in 2000. He says the IBEW helps TMWA employees get "a livable wage" and helps make sure that operators are recognized for the important role they play at the agency.



Kurtis Arnold, a 14-year member of IBEW 1245, displays awards received by the Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant, including the President's Award from the Partnership for Safe Water, a cooperative effort between the Environmental Protection Agency and numerous water associations around the country. TMWA is one of only 18 utilities across America since 1997 to receive this award, which recognizes "the highest possible level of individual filter performance."

## The Flumes

When it comes to flumes, Roy Callahan is TMWA's go-to guy.

In the mid-1970s, while he was in college, Callahan spent summers as a temporary worker helping rebuild flumes for Sierra Pacific Power. Ownership of the water system, including the flumes, passed to TMWA in 2000, but Callahan is still the guy who knows these flumes better than anyone.

As a pipe inspector for TMWA, he oversees contractors at pump stations or wherever pipe is being put in the ground. When it became clear that the flume conveying water to Fleish Powerhouse needed replacing, TMWA turned to Callahan to oversee the work.

For generations the Fleish Flume has run alongside the mountain, visible to travelers along Interstate 80. But winters are hard on wooden structures and TMWA decided to bore a tunnel and run the new flume through a 1500-foot section of the mountain, protecting it from the weather.

Callahan takes obvious pride in getting the details right on a structure that should last for generations. "There's a lot more to it than just building a box," he says. Proper measurements are key to making sure that the turns aren't too steep and that you don't create unwanted lateral pressure as the water courses its way to the powerhouse.

"You want to make it nice and easy and gradual," he says.

About TMWA, Callahan has nothing but praise, saying he likes the agency's vision and the way it's managed. "We've got a great group of guys working ... It's a pleasure to come to work and do what I'm doing."

Callahan first learned about the IBEW from his father, who was a



machinist at Tracy Power Plant.

"He talked about the security, and the camaraderie with other union members," Callahan recalls. "This is a right-to-work state, so people have a choice (about belonging to the union), but to choose not to belong doesn't make any sense to me. The more members the stronger you become."

Pipe Inspector Roy Callahan, left, and IBEW Shop Steward Chip Chadwick, take a look at the new flume and discuss the changes that have occurred since Callahan first worked on the flume system as a temporary worker in the 1970s.



Ted Saxe, water treatment foreman, monitors treatment processes from the control room.



Kim Boldi started off as a customer service rep, but now works as a water supply specialist who helps make sure everything is running as it should. “We are very fortunate to have the jobs we have,” says Boldi, an 11-year IBEW member, “and I think our managers are very lucky to have the people that they have, too.”



Service Utility Worker Amanda Filut checks on a transmitter at a residence.

## The Money

You have to be quick to keep up with Amanda Filut. As a service utility worker, she can read customer meters from her vehicle, thanks to transmitters located on customer meters. She also updates the transmitters when needed (but she has to get out of the truck to do that.)

No business survives without cash, and the meter is where the skilled services provided by IBEW Local 1245 members get converted into revenue to keep TMWA afloat.

Filut is a seven-year IBEW member and currently serves on the union’s benefits committee.

“In the beginning I had no interest in doing it, but I was asked to do it and I said, ‘Why not?’”

It’s a chance to learn more about the union—and do her part to defend the benefits the union has negotiated for the members.



Service Tech Justin Greenland turns on water service at a residence in Reno.



## Emergency Response

The call came in as “urgent” so Greg Bates and his crew cut their lunch short and headed out.

“It’s only a three-quarter inch water line,” said Bates, surveying

the damage. “It shouldn’t have been bad.”

But it was bad, and if you’re not ready for the unexpected then brother, you’re in the wrong business. The leak was in a giant



TMWA crew responds to an unexpectedly serious water pipe leak. Working on the crew were Steve Welch, Fitter; Gerald Garza, Operator; and Greg Bates, Foreman.

*continued on next page*

sand pocket.

"Everything just imploded, everything fell in, like a big sink hole," Bates said. There was a gas main adjacent to the hole, and a gas service, and some big cement pillars, adding urgency to the task at hand.

They started vacuuming out water, but the "vac" truck filled up before they could get down to the valve to shut off the service. As a backup they got two pumps going and waited for the vac truck to return.

"It's just like beach sand," said Bates, keeping a wary eye on the hole. "With the water in it, it just flows." He estimated the little 3/4-inch leak could turn into a 12-hour job. Not ideal, but these guys take it as it comes, and stay on it until it's done. Because that's just what they do.

In quieter moments you might find Bates rustling up members for the monthly union meeting. Like other unit chairs, he knows you have to go the extra mile to publicize the meetings and encourage members to attend.

In the days before each meeting Bates tacks up posters on all the bulletin boards, puts additional copies on every work table in the ready room, makes verbal announcements there as well, and sends out emails to the entire bargaining unit. He's been a shop steward for 20 years and thinks the value of the union is pretty obvious:

"We've kept people from losing their jobs on several occasions. So there's power there." The union brings power to the bargaining table, too, which are a couple of good reasons why Bates plans to keep posting those meeting notices.



Nick Cercek, left, and Danial Dourte maintain buildings and grounds, including landscaping and irrigation. Cercek started with TMWA in May, although he worked before as a seasonal employee. "I love it here. I'm happy to be part of the union and helping the community." Danial Dourte, senior facilities and grounds, is an eight-year member.

## Units lend a helping hand

*All of the following unit donations to various charitable organizations from June through August 2015 were approved by the IBEW 1245 Executive Board.*

**Unit 4718, Stockton/Trees Inc.**, donated \$300 to the Christian Worship Center, to assist with its homeless food program in the San Joaquin Valley.

**Yerington Retirees Club Chapter** donated \$250 to the South Lyon Medical Center Long Term Care Center in memory of Luther Reece.

**Unit 3213, Burney**, donated \$500 to the Intermountain Junior Rodeo Association.

**Unit 1110, Fresno Clerical**, donated \$500 to the Pittman High School football team.

**Unit 1122, Merced ID**, donated \$150 to the IBEW Local 1245 Softball Tournament which was held in July.

**Unit 1217, Templeton**, donated \$250 to the Cerro Alto 4H market Goat Group.

**Unit 1512, Peninsula/Burlingame**, donated \$500 to the Daly City/Colma 4H Club for Alternative Energy.

**Unit 2301, East Bay Clerical**, donated \$500 to Eura Dell's Court #44.

**Unit 2412, San Francisco**, donated \$500 to Pacifica American Little League.

**Unit 3218, USBR/Keswick**, donated \$500 to the Blood Source Blood Drive.

**Unit 3510, Loomis GC**, donated \$500 to sponsor Heather Brassfield, a participant in the 2015 Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in San Francisco on July 11 and July 12, 2015.

**Unit 4424, Trees Inc/SMUD**, donated \$500 to purchase uniforms for two Elk Grove Youth Soccer teams.

**Unit 4713-Utility Tree/San Jose**, donated \$500 to the Mount Pleasant Soccer League.

**The Santa Rosa Retirees Club Chapter** donated \$250 to the Boy Scouts Redwood Empire Council.

**Unit 1111, Fresno**, donated \$500 to the Del Rey Boys & Girls Club.

**Unit 2516, Lodi**, donated \$500 to the Hospice of San Joaquin.

**Unit 2519, Pine Grove**, donated \$250 to the Amador Stars Cancer Support, Transportation, and Resource Services Center.

**Unit 3311, Reno**, donated \$500 to sponsor the Sparks Pop Warner football team.

**Unit 3511, Auburn**, donated \$250 to the Forgotten Soldier Program.

### *Family of Fallen SDG&E Brother Needs Support*

Our condolences go out to the family of Brother Tommy Hopewell, a San Diego Gas & Electric lineman and IBEW local 465 member who lost his life due to injuries sustained at work.

He leaves behind his wife and two young children, and they can use our support during this difficult time. You can contribute to their family via GoFundMe at <http://www.gofundme.com/hopewellhelp>.

**Unit 3511, Auburn**, donated \$250 to the Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation/Millar Fund in support of the Barbara Millar Celebration of Life Triathlon on September 20, 2015.

**Unit 3912, Fresh Pond/SMUD**, donated \$250 to the Red Cloud Fishing Derby.

**Unit 4725, Modesto/Trees Inc.**, donated \$500 to the Modesto High School Sports Boosters.



### *Shasta/USBR Unit Supports Local Blood Drive*

IBEW local 1245 member from USBR, REU and WAPA recently participated in the annual blood drive sponsored by Blood Source. Unit #3218 also made a monetary contribution to the blood bank through the union's Community Fund.

"Blood Source wanted me to send their thanks for our participation in another successful community blood drive," said Murray K. Janisse, Shasta/USBR #3218 Unit Chair. "Thank you if you came in and helped out or just donated. We have had a great relationship and they very much appreciate our partnership."



Murray K. Janisse, Shasta/USBR #3218 Unit Chair, presented a check and letter from IBEW to the management and staff of the local blood source center

### *Loomis General Construction Unit Supports Walk to End Breast Cancer*

The Loomis General Construction Unit #3510 recently made a donation from the IBEW 1245 Community Fund to local 1245 member Heather Brassfield, so she could participate in the Avon 39 Walk to End Breast Cancer in San Francisco. Brassfield has been a strong supporter of breast cancer awareness ever since 2009, when her sister-in-law lost a 10 year battle with breast cancer, leaving behind her husband

and two daughters. According to their website, AVON 39 helps fund research, awareness, and education while providing assistance for families currently battling breast cancer. Net funds raised will directly benefit the Bay Area and help make sure that care programs nationwide, as well as national research programs, have the resources to make the most progress possible to help obliterate breast cancer.





# SERVICE AWARDS

## North Bay (Petaluma)

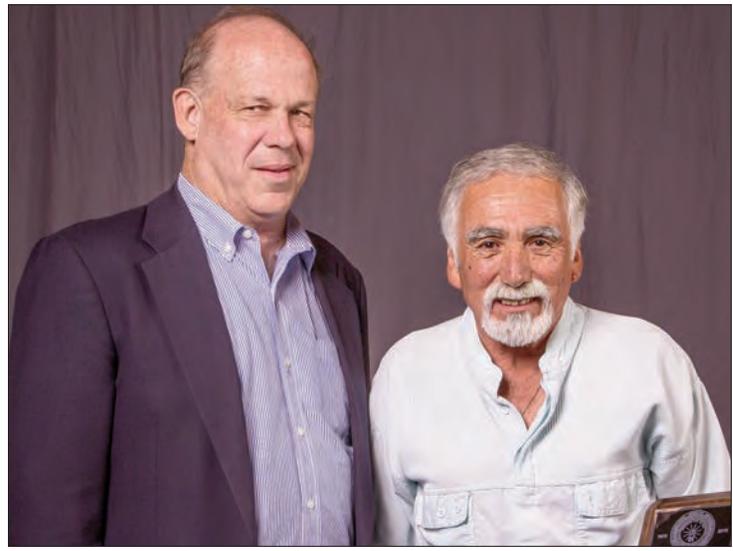
March 27, 2015



**40 Years** From left: Steve Semenero, Troy Green Jr, and Samuel Brown.



**30 Years** Front row, from left: Jeffrey Lehman, Mary Holt, and Kent Griffiths. Back row, from left: Paul Karp, Bill Hunt, David Moore, and Todd Gilliland.



### 45 Years

From left: Business Manager Tom Dalzell with 45 year member Anthony Montoya.



### 35 Years

Front row, from left: Kenneth Antonio and Sandra Goetz. Back row, from left: Marn Olsen and Allen Mitchell.



### 25 Years

From left: Chris Garrett, Maria Cortes, and Sean O'Haire.



### 15 Years

From left: (Dalzell) with Ronnie Olson.



### 10 Years

From left: Cody Schroeder and Jaime Garcia.



### 5 Years

From left: Elvis Gonzalez, Joshua Damron, and Ethan Cottrell.

*Congratulations on your service!*

HONOREES			
<p><b>45 Years</b> De Luna, Alice Franklin, Don Montoya, Anthony Radloff, Michael Vega Jr., Tony</p>	<p>Morris, Vernon Olsen, Marn Robinson, Eugene Smith, Kevin Torrez, Thomas Vallee, Nicole White, Sheryl</p>	<p>Reyes, Miguel Ross, Eric Saunders, Chris Smith, Donald Taramasso, Denis Won, Edward York, Mitchel</p>	<p>Matis, Keith Mazariegos, Daniel Mellor, Todd Moeller, Adam Osorio, Agustin Pepper, Nicholas Reynosa, Darwin Rodrigues, Linda Sanderson, Fredrick Scates, Rob Schroeder, Cody Shirley, Eric Vazquez, Alfredo Velasquez, Alfredo Walker, Tiffany</p>
<p><b>40 Years</b> Brown, Samuel Chapman, Chris Green Jr., Troy McCandless, Gene Semenero, Steve</p>	<p><b>30 Years</b> Ako, Chauncey Bittner, Stephen Bock, Michael Burroughs, Michael Burrow, Jason Cirelli, Phil Damico, Tony Dandini, Michael Gilliland, Todd Griffiths, Kent Holt, Mary Hunt, William Januleski, Michael Karp, Paul Khiev, San Lamar, Kevin Lehman, Jeffrey McKean, Tina Mock, David Moore, David Nelson, David North, Walter Ramirez-Griffith, Cristy</p>	<p><b>25 Years</b> Bahlke, Josef Cortes, Maria Dilworth, Suzanne Feland, David Garrett, Chris Gracie, Richard Halverson, Victor M Hunkins, Kevin Mullins, Erik O'haire, Sean Pennato, Lori</p>	<p><b>10 Years</b> Abraham, John Austin Sr., Nathan Blackton, Joseph Campos, Raul Cullom Iv, Edward Deturk, Christopher Easton, Joseph Faeustle, Barbara Frale, Steven Garcia, Jaime Garcia, Ulysser Gilbert, Brendan Gomez, Zefram Harriman, Ryan Herbert, Mark Jensen, William Low, Heather Maglaya, Brian</p>
<p><b>35 Years</b> Antonio, Kenneth Buentipo, Amante Cisneros, Michael Filippo, Richard Gazzoli, Linda Glendon, Ronald Goetz, Sandra Gracyk, Todd Hanssen, Michael Levernier, David Mick, Ronald Miner, Charles Mitchell, Allen Morris, Richard</p>	<p><b>20 Years</b> Cruz, Artemio Galea, Charlie Murphy, Jay Romeri, James Tokiwa, Scott</p>	<p><b>15 Years</b> Ames, Clay Green, Lisa Gutierrez,</p>	<p><b>5 Years</b> Azevedo, Nick Azevedo, Paul Clay, Joshua Cottrell, Ethan Damron, Joshua Dixon, Selena Farias - Alcazar, Juan Farias, Francisco Gonzalez, Elvis Gutierrez, Uriel Harry, Rick McKenna, Timothy McNamee, Lisa Morales, Joaquin Oseguera, Javier Rodrigues, Jeff Sullivan, Brent Valerio, Alex</p>

# THE TOKEN BEARERS

By Mike Cottrell

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

## Chapter 18

FOWLER CALIFORNIA 1948: FANCY AND THE FORTUNE TELLER.

It wasn't all up there in the tools on the top of the world like a god playing with fire. That's where he wanted to be though, that's where we all want to be, soaring in your labor, making the most money on how good you are, smooth effectiveness, effortless motion, working from the top down getting the most done in a day with less moves and ups and downs on one pole or tower. On a natural high yelling orders from above to the ground help to get the arms, hardware, bells, guys and wire up in the air. Building most of it on the ground is the trick but the fun really starts when gravity is defied and chances of the trade taken, born, and stemmed from the beginning. The same turns and tricks actuated by students and mentors alike on the same crew on the same day or spread across a time capsule, which began when Edison thrust the world into the century of generated light. And as in all crafts carefully handed down from one to the next generation, notwithstanding the technology supplements inserted by time, the first and the last of us will be the same passing the torch from cradle to grave and back again.

Fancy was on the main street of Fowler listening to a woman and a man arguing outside the bar. It was stuffy inside and he came out to get the fresh fog air on his face and to sober up a little bit. Madam Sophie, she was telling her husband, had confirmed the notion that he was seeing another woman and he did not defend himself against the attack. Fancy thought, *Who's sorry now, since she caught you red handed and you won't even lie your way out of it. It's only a fortune teller, what does she know?* They paid no attention to him standing there thinking along with their conversation, blinking and rubbing his red nose against the call of the train whistle, not wanting to go any more tonight, not knowing when the next one might be passing through. *Tell her to prove it man; don't let her push you around like that. Fight back.*

The woman kept pointing to the southwest confirming the direction of the fortune teller's residence all the while scolding for not loving her with all of his heart and sneaking about with another woman. She pointed again to the southwest and said Madam Sophie told her it was someone they both knew, a family friend. He hung his head. *She's got you now, caught like a fox in the hen house. You unfaithful son-of-a bitch, you did it didn't you, you and your home wrecking bitch have ruined the whole relationship.* Fancy watched her tear up and then start hitting him and he still hung his head and told her it was her sister.

For the first time she really noticed Fancy standing there taking it all in and she pleaded with him to beat the worthless husband of hers up.

"Ah, hell lady I'm an innocent bystander. I can't just start beating up your ole man like that."

The husband warned him to get away and stay out of it. Fancy turned and walked back inside and picked up his bag, walked back out of the bar and started through the dark foggy night in the direction of a red light to the south west. A large rather gathering light that cast out brightly over the town and didn't seem to be fazed by the cold sticky fog that pushed through Fancy's clothes and chilled him to the bone.

He stood before the sign and it reached for him like a magnet. Madam Sophie, Madam Sophie, it called him closer and he reached the porch step and looked back to town and then opened the door slowly and walked into the small front room where a table sat and soft warm music played from the RCA phonograph. It was waves crashing against a shore and he thought of somewhere in Oregon and saw the waves slinging madly into great stone cliffs. The couch was on the left against the windowed wall and he sat down and continued thinking of the waves and cliffs. He sat for some time and thought of leaving but couldn't make himself get up. He wanted to be here, he wanted to have her tell him something but he didn't know what except he really knew it was about what Sky and Henry wanted him to do with it next and how long it would haunt him and tease him with its presence and contempt. Its power over him, his slavery to the damn thing. The love it showed him and the respect it brought from other linemen. And who should have it after him.

The waves lowered and rose from the old seventy-eight playing over and over

again and just before the needle ran off the plastic, she appeared from behind the two large doors that barred the outside world from her domain of knowledge and mystery. A customer followed and as Madam Sophie walked slowly to the Victoria to raise the arm and rally it back to the beginning so it could soothe the next soul while she spent time with Fancy, the female passed by rapidly and called over her shoulder that she would see the Madam next week. She did not respond as the door closed and she turned to the couch and stared down at Fancy.

She was sorry to see him have to wait. He didn't have an appointment, it was okay with him, and the music was soothing. She curled her finger and he followed through the double doors and turned and watched her close them and she showed him his chair with a long extended brown arm with a beautiful hand attached full of rings of exotic rubies and diamonds and a wrist with six silver rings engraved with various signs of the Zodiac. She had three ways of doing it. One was a palm read for the past, one a palm read for the future and the last a telling of the past, present and future through large cards that she produced and laid on the table. He chose the latter, which was more expensive and remembered he had just enough cash to get it done and some left to hold him until he could get north and make the storm.

Madam Sophie sat down slowly and diligently brought from the drawer in front of her the deck of cards measuring six inches long and three wide. She looked into the old Irishman's eyes and spoke.

She asked him to express three silent questions in his mind and concentrate on them for a minute. "Oh well shoot," he said and rubbed his face down once with the wrinkled right hand and thought. "Let's see," he murmured and she said "To yourself only please." He thought.

Where do I go from here?

What do I do with the craft and the token?

What is my real mission and who do I give it to when I go, like Sky gave it to me?

Madam Sophie let him dwell for a minute and asked his place and date of birth. New York City he told her, in hell's kitchen in November of eighteen ninety one but he was not sure of the date. She expressed some concern through glaring black eyes without a statement.

She began placing the cards on the table in three rows across and then went from left to right vertically to each row until she had placed twenty-one cards. She took the twenty-second card and placed it alone to the right of the last row.

"Damn if that ain't the ugliest lookin' sight I ever saw on a card. It must be bad lady. What does that mean?"

"Silence, I will not be able to help you if you intervene in the oracles and waves around this room which guide me to your past, present and future."

"Yes Maam."

"Madam, if you please sir, now silence and let me do my work."

She said it softly and he felt sad warmth about him and stared at the card. It was a dark horse with two heads carrying a figure that was half angel in white with a leg in the right stirrup and the other half of the figure was a black beast with a wolf like head exposing red eyes and long sharp teeth with a hairy leg of a man in the left stirrup.

Then she placed another card to the left of the first row and it was a moon in the quarter shining through a dark sky with one star above the moon shining brightly more so than the moon itself.

She told Fancy he was carrying something of great importance with him and it possibly could be in the left pocket of his trousers. She asked if she could see it if it were so. He said it was and stood long enough to reach in and pull it out and lay it before her. She asked to hold it and examine it and he said of course. She read one side and turned it over and read and studied the other for some time. She placed it on the card to the left where it would represent a full moon with a star shining brightly over it. She then took the card from the right side and placed it directly underneath the card on the left that held the token.

"You are a strong drinker."

*continued on next page*

"One would know that from the smell of my breath more than from those cards." She grinned and said of course but then she got serious.

The card with the horse carrying half angel and half beast she said was his personalities torn between his darker and more mischievous side wanting to be free from the token and the angelic side wanting to do what was expected of him from men of his past.

The card holding the token placed above the card with the horse was his destiny. The star above the crescent moon was to be his reward if he would follow through with his great mission.

Fancy was overwhelmed. How did she know? She went on while he concurred this was true. Good she said and told of his being brought out of the streets of New York by a savior into a great endeavor that he must continue to move forward with at all costs.

You have cheated death several times and he nodded, perhaps at birth as well and asked if he knew of that and he said no.

"You may be killed, but I do not see it happening for some time."

"How?"

"A fall perhaps or a fire or maybe both, could this be possible in your line of work? I feel it could happen at your place of work. Are you a fruit picker or migrant worker?"

"Shoot Madam Sophie I might be a migrant worker but I ain't no fruit picker. They don't make trees as tall as I climb sometimes. Besides how does a fruit picker get burned up?

I'm a lineman and we're just the fellows can fall or get burned or both." Then Fancy swallowed hard and wished he had a girl and a dance hall.

"I think I've heard about enough of it. I got a train to catch. I'd like to come back

and see you sometime when you ain't so damn serious. I bet you'd be a lot of fun off the job and all with everything going on around you at a party or dance you'd be able to keep everybody in stitches I suppose. Well look here's three dollars, the extra one is for keeping this meeting quiet, and not letting it get out old Fancy is doomed to burn or fall to his death. I can say the only good thing about the prediction is I loved the part when you said it'd be awhile before it takes place."

He stood to leave and she showed him to the door and before she opened it she gave him back the token he was about to forget. He had never done that before and the whole experience scared him somewhat but like all linemen who cheat death they seem to let it ease out of their mind through a series of well-oiled nights and loving girls until the next time and so would Fancy just dwell on it for awhile and it would come back occasionally over the rest of his life at the bar or in his room, or on the train, but most of the time when he would be up a tall tower dead ending wire or on a pole playing with fire he would just be extra careful that's all.

As he walked by the phonograph she reached and rallied the needle back to the beginning of the record and apologized to a woman sitting on the couch for having to wait just as she had apologized to him a few moments earlier and as Fancy picked up his bag and started back out into the cold foggy night. She asked him to bring a picture of him next time and she would try to tell him more about the mission. He asked what picture and of who, and she said the man who saved you from your doom in New York City.

"I feel like he is a man of the Sky as well, the word Sky keeps hanging in my mind."

"Yes Ma'am, Madam Sophie, that one and old Henry hang in mind ever day."



## 2015 APALA Convention

# Building One Vision Forward

IBEW 1245 Organizing Steward Ivan Pereda and Staff Organizer Jammi Juarez traveled to San Diego in August to represent IBEW 1245 at the 13th Biennial Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) convention. This year's theme was "Organizing In Solidarity, Building One Vision Forward!" The three-day convention featured a number of unique workshops, performances, strategy summits, town hall discussions and presentations, along with a march and rally to support workers fighting for a fair contract at the hotel where the convention took place.

"The convention was full of many inspiring people fighting for the survival of Unions, and our middle class way of life. APALA President Johanna Hester did an amazing job bringing people together for this convention," said Pereda. "I was able to meet some of the tough-



From left: Brandon Leung (IBEW 3), Winfield Le (IBEW 595), Jammi Juarez (IBEW 1245), Ivan Pereda (IBEW 1245), Steven Moy (IBEW 3) and Wendell Yee (IBEW 3) at the APALA Convention.

est young people that fight for a decent wage, while also fighting to stay in the USA. It's hard to imagine that at any moment, the home you know or a family member can be taken away. I'm glad to have gotten the chance to meet so many inspiring people who drive me to keep fighting and make a difference," Pereda said.



APALA Convention delegates rallied to support hotel workers.



## The IBEW 1245 LOGO CONTEST IS BACK ON!

Calling all artists and aspiring designers!  
IBEW 1245 needs your help creating a new logo for our union!

**Winner will receive a prize of \$1000**

The contest is now open to all IBEW 1245 retired members and members in good standing. **In addition, immediate family members are now eligible to enter the contest as well.**

Enter as many times as you wish.  
Deadline extended! Entries must be submitted by **October 31, 2015.**

All formats, including digital designs as well as drawings, sketches and paintings, are eligible.

For complete rules and requirements, see:  
<http://bit.ly/IBEW1245logocontest>



# SERVICE AWARDS

## San Francisco March 13, 2015

*Congratulations on your service!*



**45 Years**  
From left:  
Business  
Representative  
Landis  
Marttila,  
Sharon Jeong  
and Kenneth  
Padron.



**40 Years** From left: John Petrovitz, Robert Hom, IBEW 1245 Business Rep Hunter Stern, and Gene McCandless.



**35 Years** From left: (Marttila), Rafael Fontanilla, (Stern), and Edward Fifer.



**35 Years** Front row, from left: Denise Guaraglia, Helen Lau, Monica Huey. Back row, from left: Russell Chin, William Ekberg, and Alan Lee.



**35 Years** Front row, from left: Melvin Washington, Delena Roan-Montgomery, David Schappert. Back row, from left: Dominador Marcus, Gary Maschio, Robert Olague, and Marvin Araquistain.

### Retirees, from page 19

Eva Bojorquez 34 years Sacramento, CA	Manuel Contreras 42 years San Jose, CA	Deborah Deas 19 years Reno, NV	Cindy Florendo 13 years Loma Rica, CA	Therese Gregersen 21 years San Jose, CA	Sylvia Jackson 17 years Placerville, CA	Danny Lambert 39 years Paso Robles, CA	Jay Luchsinger 50 years Angels Camp, CA	Douglas Mattson 27 years Santa Cruz, CA	Ronald Mick 35 years Sebastopol, CA
Anthony Borrero 34 years Sacramento, CA	Angela Cosico 32 years Hayward, CA	Chito Del Rosario 33 years Richmond, CA	Timothy Foley 31 years Granite Bay, CA	Larry Hagans 24 years Bakersfield, CA	Antonio Jacob 4 years Rodeo, CA	Linda Letzer 20 years Fresno, CA	Michael Macaluso 41 years Concord, CA	Karen McClelland 25 years Willow Creek, CA	Lou Moore 25 years Elk Grove, CA
Linda Bowers 45 years Burney, CA	Richard Crow 35 years Manton, CA	Paula Dittmann 18 years Grove, OK	Jonathan Foote 37 years Darby, MT	Douglas Hall 30 years Lakeport, CA	Mark Joerger 41 years Santa Rosa, CA	Donald Lewis 29 years Grass Valley, CA	Roy Madden 35 years Fall River Mills, CA	James McCoy 41 years Colfax, CA	Paula Morgan 24 years Auburn, CA
James Brabec 38 years Roseville, CA	Wayne Crump 36 years Stockton, CA	David Donatelli 14 years Daly City, CA	Dirk Forrette 31 years Auburn, CA	Darlene Harbison 36 years Bellingham, WA	Connie Bennett Jones 35 years Clovis, CA	Arthur Liscano 29 years Clovis, CA	John Magee 26 years Richmond, CA	Michael McCracken 34 years Shell Beach, CA	James Murgatroyd 37 years San Rafael, CA
Darryl Breckenridge V 33 years Red Bluff, CA	Robert Cruz Jr. 40 years Clovis, CA	Raymond Drummond 30 years Umatilla, OR	Robert Foushee 30 years Red Bluff, CA	James Hemphill 44 years Oakland, CA	Kathleen Kelly 25 years Davis, CA	Gregory Logaburn 31 years Pittsburg, CA	Casey Mares 38 years Eureka, CA	Dennis McKenna 31 years Los Osos, CA	William Murray 34 years San Luis Obispo, CA
Charles Carrion 36 years Winters, CA	Frank Dalao 35 years Rio Vista, CA	Michael Ellithorp 26 years Willows, CA	Alma Frantz 24 years Paradise, CA	Edward Hernandez 40 years San Jose, CA	Bradley Kiel 31 years Boulder Creek, CA	Danny Lolmaugh 35 years Gridley, CA	Marcia Marley 37 years Chico, CA	Jim McKinley 41 years Madera, CA	Bruce Nelli 32 years Antioch, CA
Karen Cary 33 years Willits, CA	Alice De Luna 45 years Napa, CA	Denise Esperson 7 years Rio Vista, CA	Jesus Garcia 24 years San Francisco, CA	Bryant Hespeler 31 years Sacramento, CA	Rebecca Kincade 32 years Yuba City, CA	Sylvia Lopez 27 years Fresno, CA	Robert Martin 41 years So San Francisco, CA	Gary Medigovich 34 years San Luis Obis, CA	William Murray 34 years San Luis Obispo, CA
Lily Cheung 38 years Fremont, CA	Leland Deadmond 27 years Orland, CA	Raymond Drummond 30 years Umatilla, OR	Robert Foushee 30 years Red Bluff, CA	James Hemphill 44 years Oakland, CA	Kathleen Kelly 25 years Davis, CA	Danny Lolmaugh 35 years Gridley, CA	Marcia Marley 37 years Chico, CA	Dennis McKenna 31 years Los Osos, CA	William Murray 34 years San Luis Obispo, CA
Stephen Claxton 43 years Richmond, CA	Ronald Deal 38 years Jamestown, CA	Michael Ellithorp 26 years Willows, CA	Alma Frantz 24 years Paradise, CA	Edward Hernandez 40 years San Jose, CA	Bradley Kiel 31 years Boulder Creek, CA	Danny Lolmaugh 35 years Gridley, CA	Marcia Marley 37 years Chico, CA	Dennis McKenna 31 years Los Osos, CA	William Murray 34 years San Luis Obispo, CA
	Kenneth Finicle 13 years Everett, WA	Denise Esperson 7 years Rio Vista, CA	Jesus Garcia 24 years San Francisco, CA	Bryant Hespeler 31 years Sacramento, CA	Rebecca Kincade 32 years Yuba City, CA	Sylvia Lopez 27 years Fresno, CA	Robert Martin 41 years So San Francisco, CA	Gary Medigovich 34 years San Luis Obis, CA	William Murray 34 years San Luis Obispo, CA
	Filomena Goble 22 years Palermo, CA	Dawn Everhart 27 years Grass Valley, CA	Valerie Gettys 19 years Citrus Hts, CA	Jett Hoag 4 years Ripon, CA	Charles Korman II 3 years San Jose, CA	James Lovercheck 27 years Susanville, CA	John Martine 31 years Salida, CA	Richard Menor 41 years Stockton, CA	Lisa Nelson 7 years Canyon Lake, TX
	Anthony Hostetter 30 years Nevada City, CA	Kenneth Finicle 13 years Everett, WA	Filomena Goble 22 years Palermo, CA	Anthony Hostetter 30 years Nevada City, CA	John Lake 4 years Chico, CA	Mariano Lucas 29 years Antioch, CA	Katherine Mashbir 5 years Kearneysville, WV	Frederick Meyer 30 years Spreckels, CA	Sally Occhipinti 23 years Red Bluff, CA



**30 Years** Front row, from left: Thomas Gerstle, Charles Hammons, CR Holland. Back row, from left: Robert Hawkes Jr, David Sambrailo, and Alonzo Lopez.



**30 Years** Front row, from left: Jose Lopez, Margie Rosario. Back row, from left: Kingston Yee, Daniel Trujillo, and Lee Nelson.



**25 Years** Front row, from left: Eric Wolfe, Donald Savard, Daniel Nunez. Back row, from left: Ron Abellana, Richard Chen, and Elmanuel Delacruz.



**20 Years**  
From left:  
(Stern), Jose Legaspi, and Larry Ancheta.

Photos by John Storey



**5 Years**

From left:  
(Stern), Margarita Khavul, and Anthony San Diegoat.



**10 Years** From left: (Stern), John Waters, Shane Kayser, and Levi Jackson.

John Orason 12 years Evanston, WY	David Prince 35 years Clovis, CA	Barbara Schrock 20 years Shasta Lake, CA	Terese Tewalt 30 years Arroyo Grande, CA	Jasminda Webb 8 years Emeryville, CA
William Oren 36 years Fairfield, CA	Rosevilla Pring 37 years San Francisco, CA	Janice Seaman 37 years Concord, CA	Gerald Thomas 27 years Fresno, CA	Willie Williams 19 years Stockton, CA
Kevin O'Sullivan 35 years Marysville, CA	Jeanette Ramsey 17 years Magalia, CA	Dennis Sheeran 41 years Redding, CA	James Thompson 36 years El Dorado, CA	Lenore Young 9 years Santa Maria, CA
Allan Otterson 31 years Magalia, CA	Janice Ray 20 years Cassel, CA	Leroy Shuman 34 years Colusa, CA	Philip Tom 36 years San Francisco, CA	Nancy Young-Edson 37 years Oakland, CA
Daniel Padilla 22 years Red Bluff, CA	Thomas Reinke 43 years Ben Lomond, CA	Terry Spain 41 years Fresno, CA	Ronald Turner 42 years Seaside, CA	Michael Zimnicki 34 years Santa Cruz, CA
Donald Pankratz 10 years Baxter, MN	Steven Rickert 26 years Auberry, CA	Ronald Stivers 35 years West Point, CA	John Van Horn 31 years Bakersfield, CA	
Ernesto Pasion 30 years Daly City, CA	Gregory Riley 30 years Pismo Beach, CA	Elaine Street 3 years Olympia, WA		
Rudy Perez 29 years San Jose, CA	John Rosales 42 years Selma, CA	Roger Taylor 29 years Geyserville, CA		
George Pickering 32 years Oakdale, CA	Richard Rowe 31 years Fresno, CA	Donna Taylor 39 years Modesto, CA		

**Congratulations Retirees!**  
**We want you to STAY CONNECTED**

**to IBEW 1245.**

<b>HONOREES</b>	
<b>45 Years</b> Jeong, Sharon Padron, Kenneth 40 Carrillo, Albert Davis, Paul Flores, Cisto Gaylord, Laura Goulding, Dennis Hom, Robert MacDonald, Renee Petrovitz, John	Trujillo, Daniel Yee, Kingston
<b>35 Years</b> Araquistain, Marvin Carder, Robert Chin, Russell Clark, Donald Dela Calzada, Phil Ekberg, William Fifer, Edward Fontanilla, Rafael Guaraglia, Denise Huey, Monica Jaber, Paul Lau, Helen Lee, Alan Lee, Raymond Mahoney, John Marucut, Dominador Maschio, Gary Mott, James	<b>25 Years</b> Abellana, Ronald Castellanos, Emma Chen, Richard Dela Cruz, Elmanuel Finetti, Stephanie Ho, Edward Mays, Millicent Morath, David Newmiller, Helen Nunez, Daniel Salinas, Sergio Terron, Joseph Wolfe, Eric Savard, Donald
<b>30 Years</b> Bauer, John Beratlis, Deborah Chu, Agnes Clark, Thomas Durant, Perry Frisbie, Donald Gerstle, Thomas Grech, Rosina Hammons, Charles Hawkes Jr., Robert Holland, C Lem, Mark Lopez, Alonzo Lopez, Jose Nelson, Lee Pasion, Ernesto Rosario, Margie Sambrailo, David Scannell, Mark Solloway, Kevin	<b>20 Years</b> Ancheta, Larry Cotter, Richard Legaspi, Jose Nelson, William P. Powell, Bryan Sanchez, Marco
<b>15 Years</b> Aguayo, Jose Cordaro, Thomas Mackwood, Jason Rashkovskiy, VolDIM	<b>10 Years</b> Aquino, Victor
<b>5 Years</b> Balistreri, Robert Bonkosky, Alex Botvinnik, Boris Colpitts, Peter Diaz, Henry Donelson, Autumn Dunlap, Corey Epperson, Chad Gonzales Jr, David Iwamasa, Paul Jackson, Levi Kayser, Shane Kern, Jason Kuzmeuko, Stanislav Lopez, Carmen Lopez, Leo Nieve, Matthew Peacock, Ian Rodriguez, Sergio Saba, Paul Southall, Andre Waters, John Wyrsh, Kenneth Yokoo, Tim	<b>5 Years</b> Contreras, Francisco Fernandez, Alex Gulyas, Morgan Khavul, Margarita Ribero, Rick Richmond, Ernest San Diego, Anthony R



# SERVICE AWARDS

## Fresno May 1, 2015



### 35 Years

Front row, from left: Sharon Martinez and Ernest Rodriguez. Back row, from left: Tana Prince, Jeff Rubbo, and Melinda Worstein.



**25 Years** From left: Business Rep Gracie Clark, Grace Farmer, (Dalzell) and Karl Alger.



### 20 Years

Front row, from left: Diane Garcia and Mary Shipman. Back row, from left: Kristie Pearson, Librado Rodriguez, and Linda Letzer.



### 10 Years

From left: Jose Sanchez and Carlos Sanchez.



### 40 Years

From left: Business Manager Tom Dalzell with James Brager.

Photos by John Storey



**30 Years** Front row, from left: Christi Garza, Betty Luis, and Terese Tewalt. Back row, from left: Stan Zamora, Jesse Kenney, Kimberly Mwood, and Chris Van Dyke.

*Congratulations on your service!*



### 15 Years

From left: Robert Mohler, Carla Kootstra, and Dave Jones.



### 5 Years

Front row, from left: Sherron Fitzpatrick, Lilia Diaz, and Martha Villagomez. Back row, from left: Susan Montanaro, Matthew Jadot, and Jessy Schoonover.



# SERVICE AWARDS

## Merced May 15, 2015



### 40 years

From left: Dan Mayo with Business Representative Mike Grill.

Photos by John Storey



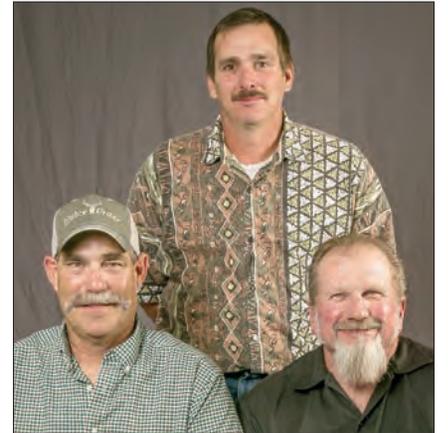
**35 years** From left: Brian Cederlof with (Grill).



**30 years** From left: Rodney Stewart with (Grill).



**25 years** From left: Willie People, Richard Torres, and Frank Kasper.



**15 years** Front row, from left: Bill Stavrianoudakis and Jeffrey Sturm. Back: David Kelley.

## HONOREES

### 45 Years

Alicea, Robert

### 40 Years

Mayo, Daniel

### 35 Years

Auble, Randy  
Castillo, Steven  
Flowers, Greg  
Kane, Mikel  
McDonough,  
Michael  
Nevarez,  
Armando  
Ochoa, Greg

### 30 Years

Boeder, Richard  
Ennis, Jeffrey  
Ford, Michael

### 25 Years

Herzog, Donald  
Kasper, Frank  
King, W Gordon  
Matlock, David  
People, Willie  
Silva Jr., Fred  
Torres, Richard

### 20 Years

Backstrom, Jan

### 15 Years

Borges, Troy  
Boyer, David  
Fisher, Timothy  
Kingston, Cody  
Lane, Richard  
Lucio, Frank  
Mack, Samuel  
Mattos, Dennis  
Nava Jr., Efrain  
Paine, Steve  
Stavrianoudakis,  
Bill  
Sturm, Jeffrey  
Venegas,  
Gilberto  
Verschelden,  
Stephen

### 10 Years

Baza, Thejon  
Camarena Jr,

Michael  
Carlson, Stephen  
Cervantes,  
Homero

Gaeta, Angelo  
Gudgel, Elmer  
Guinn, Casey  
Higgins, Nathan  
Hodges Jr.,  
Denver

Johnson, Don  
Johnson, Steve  
Jones, Michael  
Kane, Kyle  
Madrigal, Hugo  
Mahn, Ken  
Mello, Eric  
Moua, Xang  
Paige, Erik  
Patterson,  
Michael  
Peck, Shane  
Peterson,  
Thomas  
Redding, Blake  
Rocha, Anthony

Rodin, Mark  
Silva, Frank  
Small Iii, James  
Tello, Jaime  
Van Egmond,  
Michael  
Vereschagin,  
Daniel  
Victor, Tommy

### 5 Years

Dunworth, Kyle  
Frohman,  
Michael  
Hamill, Nathan  
Jacobs, Tjay  
Kelley, David  
Kisore, Amlsh  
Martinez, April  
Martinez, Hector  
Millsap, Trent  
O'Hagan,  
Minerva  
Valenta, Thomas

*Congratulations on your service!*



### 10 years

Front row, from left: PJ Saenz and Daniel Vereschagin. Back row, from left: Michael Van Egmond, Erik Paige, and Michael Patterson.

## HONOREES

### 50 Years

Smith, Ronald

### 45 Years

Smith, Roger

### 40 Years

Bonilla, Frank  
Brager, James  
Comer, William  
Cruz, Robert  
Medeiros Jr., Gerroll  
Meurer, John  
Scotti, Jeffery

### 35 Years

Anderson, Noreen  
Barker, Sheri  
Bennett, Connie  
Carlen, Shauna  
Cederlof, Brian  
Hagopian, James  
Hester, Gail  
Hostetter, Mary  
Johnson, Donna  
Johnson, Ted  
Lynch, Gloria  
Martinez, Sharon  
Maxwell, Regina  
Monohon, Karen  
Morrill, Dan

### 30 Years

Ojinaga, Bobby  
Prince, Tana Sj  
Ramirez, Celia  
Rodriguez, Ernest  
Rosenwinkel, Cathy  
Rubbo, Jeff  
Sholler, Laurie  
Stout, Darrel  
Tobey, Carol  
Winn, Charles  
Worstein, Melinda

### 25 Years

Bell, Richard  
Benegar, Al  
Calpito, Roberto  
Dilldine, Jeff  
Dizney, Jeff  
Eoff III, David  
Esposito, Gary  
Fackler, Jeff S  
Fedor, Patrick  
Ford, Walter  
Gann, Charlie  
Garza, Christi  
Grube, John  
Hernandez, Carlos  
Hubbart, Julie  
Kenney, Jesse  
Leslie, Mike  
McCord, William  
Mwood (Mendes),

### 20 Years

Kimberly  
Reyes, Andrew  
Sanchez Jr.,  
Salvador  
Shine, Robert  
Tewalt, Terese  
Van Dyke, Chris  
Jones, David  
Letzer, Linda  
Lindsay, Michelle  
Lopez, Mike  
Lopez, Roberta  
Martinez, Lanore  
Martinez, Richard  
Oliver, Etta  
Pearson, Kristie  
Peters, Todd  
Riley, Randi  
Rodriguez, Librado  
Shipman, Mary  
Simis, Shirley  
Stevens, Tracy

### 15 Years

Alvarez, David  
Avalos, Enrique

Botello, Regina  
Bradley, Cheryl  
Campos, Jesus  
De La Cruz, Efrain  
Elizondo, Angelica  
Espinoza, Cynthia  
Flores, Guadalupe  
Garcia, Diane  
Hinton, Alan  
Jones, David  
Letzer, Linda  
Lindsay, Michelle  
Lopez, Mike  
Lopez, Roberta  
Martinez, Lanore  
Martinez, Richard  
Oliver, Etta  
Pearson, Kristie  
Peters, Todd  
Riley, Randi  
Rodriguez, Librado  
Shipman, Mary  
Simis, Shirley  
Stevens, Tracy

### 10 Years

Boyd, David  
Courtright, Brad  
Cox, Wendy  
Dickson, Aaron  
Guizar, Erika  
Hargreaves, Roger  
Kootstra, Carla  
Latham, La Shawn  
Mcbee, Shannon  
Mohler, Robert

Porter, John  
Wilkins, Scott

### 5 Years

Alvarez, Alexis  
Ambriz, Gabriel  
Arrants, Jeff  
Avila, Steven  
Barragan, Alberto  
Barton, Larry  
Berry, Shad  
Bogart, Luke  
Brown, Hilema  
Burgess, Michael  
Calley, Sonny  
Chaidez Jr, Jose  
Chavira, Enrique  
Comstock, Karen  
Conway, Jarod  
Corrente, Randy  
Crosby, Mary  
Crosswy Jr, Darrell  
Ellis, Stephen  
Felix, Thomas  
Garcia, Armando  
Garcia, Stephanie  
Gehrke, Crystal  
Hartsock, John  
Hatfield, Wade  
Hernandez, Manuel  
Holmes, John  
Hunt, Robert  
Lambert, Shawn  
Lewis, Aaron  
Macias, Jose  
Macias, Martin

Macias, Sandra  
May, Paul  
Moore, Benjamin  
Ortiz, David  
Patterson, Joel  
Plew, Kelly  
Renville, Gregory  
Robinson, Michael  
Rodriguez, Angela  
Sabree, Shante  
Saenz III, Porfirio  
Sanchez, Carlos  
Sanchez, Jose  
Sanders, Marc  
Schoolen, David  
Silveira, Ivo  
Skelton, Ryan  
Soto, Raul  
Stout, David  
Tauiliili, Dwane  
Thomas, Jacob  
Vasquez, Chris  
Vasquez, Valerio  
Vidaurri, Daniel  
Wells, Samuel  
White, Chad  
Williams, Tina  
Ycong Sr, Victor

### 5 Years

Arteaga, Valentin  
Bammerlin Iv,  
Charles  
Bascherini,  
Brandon  
Boster III, Richard

Bottimore, Ryan  
Bron, Joe  
Bruce, Dax  
Cahoon, Derek  
Canales, Michael  
Carrubio, Amador  
Cederquist, Kevin  
Childs, Ronald  
Clark, Mark  
Coleman, Jared  
Conway Jr, James  
Cotton, Michelle  
De La Cerda,  
Ramiro  
Diaz, Lilia  
Duran Iv, Manuel  
Durbin, Donald  
Edwards, Gary  
Escobar Jr, Felix  
Escobar Jr, Refugio  
Escobar, Orlando  
Escobar, Rolando  
Espinoza, Valentin  
Fernandez Jr.,  
Rogelio  
Fey, Dorr  
Fitzpatrick, Sherron  
Fontana, Jordan  
Frantz, Denton  
Frost, Brandon  
Funez, Julianna  
Gaither, Paul  
Gaona Jr, Ricardo  
Garcia, Silvino  
Gill, Sonia  
Glover, Richard  
Gomez, Jaime

Guzman, Gabriel  
Hatfield, Joshua  
Hendrickson,  
Merlin  
Hubbard, James  
Hurtado, Stacy  
Jadot, Matthew  
Jewell, Michael  
Johnson, Steven  
Jurado, Adrian  
Jurado, Luis  
Kilba, Darcey  
Kirksey, Jake  
Klein, Jacob  
Labadie, Chad  
Landeros, Andres  
Leyva, Gina  
Lezo, Juan  
Lockett, David  
Lopez, Andrew  
Macias Sr, Jesus  
Madrigal, Jaime  
Maldonado, Jesse  
Martinez, Francisco  
Massingham,  
Derick  
Medina, Francisco  
Mendoza, Valentin  
Mendoza, Victor  
Messer, Kashe  
Meyer, Phillip  
Montanaro, Susan  
Moreno, Gilbert  
Munsch, Jeffrey  
Murillo-Miranda,  
Luis  
Murray, Jason

Naranjo, Miguel  
Navarrete, Mario  
Navarro, Rosa  
Olivo, Adam  
Ong, Sovanara  
Ortiz, Artemio  
Pacini, Mitchell  
Padilla II, Matias  
Padilla, Hector  
Paradas, Tomas  
Pedroza, Frankie  
Rangel, Carmela  
Ritter, Keith  
Roach, Patricia  
Russo, Jennifer  
Salazar, Valerie  
Sanchez, Robert Ig  
Sanders, Tamara  
Santa Cruz, Alex  
Santa Cruz, Gregory  
Santangelo, Art  
Schoonover, Jessy  
Silvey Jr, Ernest  
Simmons, Daniel  
Stevenson, Marcus  
Tinajero, Everardo  
Torres, Alejandro  
Torres, Fernando  
Torres, Rodolfo  
Ulloa, Fabiola  
Villagomez, Martha  
Walls, Adam  
Walton, Eric  
Wyant, Brian  
Xiong, Doua  
Zapata, Jesse

# Keeping Communities Connected

*IBEW 1245 members at Frontier stay on cutting edge of communication*



Sales & Service Technician Randall Weston

By Rebecca Band

Photos by John Storey

For IBEW Local 1245 members working at Frontier Communications in Elk Grove, every day is a little bit different. On any given day, these telecommunications workers might be restoring long-distance phone services, running fiber-optic cables, installing a new DSL line or troubleshooting connectivity issues—whatever it takes to keep their suburban customers connected.

The Elk Grove Central office provides telephone, internet and data services for residential and business customers in the Sacramento suburbs and nearby rural areas, including Elk Grove, South Sacramento, Rio Vista, Isleton, Walnut Grove, Cortland, Clarksburg, Wilton and the Delta.

“We play a vital role in every form of communication in the industry from voicemail, to dial tone, to high-speed internet, VoIP and VLAN,” said Walter Carmier, a Central Office Transmission Technician and 16-year member of Local 1245. “We install, monitor and maintain power plants and switching-transport. We also inspect and manage the installation of our network projects. I like that we are always on the cutting edge of communication, and connecting people with technology.”

## Military-Style Brotherhood

Like many of his fellow workers at Frontier, Carmier is proud of his longevity with the company; he’s worked here longer than he’s worked at any other

business. But Carmier did have one other lengthy employment stint—as a member of the United States Army Signal Corps, where he served as an active duty soldier from 1982-1997, and a Reservist from 1997-2003.

Carmier worked at non-union jobs between his time in the military and when he came on board at Frontier, and says his favorite part of working at Frontier is the fact that it comes with a union card. He appreciates the “military-style brotherhood” that the union provides, as well as the critical protections and benefits he and his colleagues have at work.

“Nonunion jobs are like living in the wild wild west,” said Carmier.

## Emphasis on Safety

Frontier Transmission Technician Dan Boschee also comes from a military background. While serving in the US Air Force, Boschee travelled across the western United States and England, installing communications equipment on Air Force bases. He came to Citizen Utilities (now Frontier) shortly after leaving the military 34 years ago, and has been with the company ever since.

Boschee explains what’s kept him at Frontier for more than three decades: “The primary thing I like [about this job] is the emphasis on safety. I am currently the chairman of the Frontier safety committee in Elk Grove and I am on the union’s safety committee,” said Boschee. “I am also a member of the National Safety Council and chairman of the IBEW Caucus’s Utilities Division, representing a variety of crafts from

maritime and the communications industries.”

## Technology Changes

Mindy Perez has been with Frontier for 21 years, and enjoys working in the ever-changing and challenging telecom industry.

“Technology changes a lot at any given time,” said Perez. “[This work] keeps me grounded and more educated.”

Perez is known as a “cut writer,” which means she manages high speed internet service orders and data, and builds new cable and maintenance records for high-speed internet office equipment. She values her job and her co-workers, and appreciates the pay, benefits and protections that the union provides.

“I worked retail for five years and did not have the support of a union,” said Perez, noting that the best thing about the union is “the assistance and the information you receive when you’re unsure of the labor laws.”

## The Evolution of Frontier

Frontier is the sixth largest local exchange carrier in the United States, providing phone, internet and television services to small towns, suburbs and rural areas in 29 states. IBEW 1245 has represented these telecom workers for nearly half a century, well before the company was known as Frontier.

Back when the company first became union, it was known as Citizens Utilities, an identity it held for many decades. In May of 2000, the company name changed slightly to Citizens Com-

munications, and then in the summer of 2008, the name changed once again, to Frontier Communications. In 2009, Frontier acquired Verizon’s 4.8 million landlines in 14 states, including several of Verizon’s exchanges in California.

IBEW local 1245 currently represents workers in several different classifications at Frontier in Elk Grove.

- The Facility Assigners (also known as Cut Writers) assign circuits and feeds in the Frontier exchanges, maintaining balance on the overall system to meet and match the needs of the required services to the facilities available.
- The Sales and Service Technicians include two groups of workers—Installation and Repair Technicians and Complex Technicians. The I&R Techs work predominantly on residential service, house lines and internet service. The Complex Techs can also perform the I&R duties but are mostly assigned larger distribution cable repairs, installing customer end circuits and phone systems, as well as splicing duties and business tickets and orders. Those who have splicing skills handle cable repairs, capital job splicing, and cross function through complex and I&R work.
- The Transmission Technicians (also known as Central Office Technicians) work predominantly out of the central office locations that house all the copper, fiber cabling and server equipment necessary to distribute phone service internet service to their customers.



Sales & Service Technician David Mason



Cut Writer Mindy Perez



Transmission Technician Walter Carmier



Transmission Technician Dan Boschee



(left to right) John Lawson, Walter Carmier, Bear Boorman, Dan Boschee, and seated is James Medeiros

Utility Reporter



Jim Beaman



Elias Faupula

# Chris Habecker

## One of IBEW 1245's Brightest Lights

by Eric Wolfe

Chris Habecker, IBEW 1245's long-time recording secretary and one of our brightest lights, died June 30 of a recently-diagnosed illness.

Her service to the union, her loyalty to the cause of labor, and her irrepressible good cheer made Chris a good friend to many and a sister to all. She was initiated into IBEW 1245 in January of 1976, shortly after being hired by PG&E. Six years later she became a shop steward, reflecting early on her commitment to serving members and defending their rights. It was a position she held until her recent retirement from the company.

Being a shop steward was just the beginning of Chris's union service. She served as chair of Fresno Unit #1111 for 18 years, from 1989 to 2007. In 1994 she took a seat on the Advisory Council and the following year she won a contested election for the Southern Area position on the Executive Board. She became



Chris in the mid-1990s at the old union headquarters in Walnut Creek, around the time she was elected to the Executive Board.

recording secretary for the union by appointment in 2001 and was re-elected to that position in every subsequent election.

"From her position on the Executive Board, Chris was a strong advocate for fiscal strength," said Business Manager Tom Dalzell. "She helped lead the Board to take meaningful action to assist retirees in Nevada when their medical benefits were under attack by NV Energy."

Dalzell said that Chris was equally strong in advocating for our current members, offering strong support on the Executive Board for the creation of two new positions to serve members: safety stewards and organizing stewards.

"We are where we are—powerful and financially sound—thanks to her insight and her consistency," said Dalzell. "Our members will reap the good things she sowed for years."

### Commitment

Chris's commitment to this union was broad and deep. Beginning in the 1980s, she served on the San Joaquin Division Joint Grievance Committee. In the



early 1990s, as PG&E moved to consolidate telephone service into regional call centers, she served on the committee examining consolidation's impact on Clerical members. As one of many Clerical members who experienced a repetitive stress injury, she didn't suffer in silence but volunteered instead to serve on the Workstation Evaluation Committee and the Video Display Terminal Committee.

In 1990 and again in 1994, Chris was entrusted with the responsibility of serving on the PG&E General Bargaining Committee. Clerical members could be assured that their concerns were well-represented, while Physical members could be confident that her loyalty to the union embraced all members.

Business Managers from Jack McNally to Perry Zimmerman to Tom Dalzell regularly appointed Chris to represent our local union to the outside world. You could never find a better ambassador. Among the dozens of conferences and conventions she attended over the years were IBEW Ninth District Progress Meetings, IBEW Utility Conferences, National Women's Conferences, and Coalition of Labor Union Women conferences.

Chris was elected by the members at large to represent Local 1245 at the

IBEW's International Convention in 2001 and 2006, where matters affecting the IBEW's entire membership were considered and voted on. If you happened to serve with her at such a convention you would notice that she did not merely warm a seat—she paid attention. She was also a delegate to California Labor Federation conferences and conventions, where she engaged in the discussion of issues affecting working people throughout California. Her eager participation in policy and political deliberations reflected her curious mind and her desire to help others.

If you knew her, you knew this for sure: Chris genuinely cared.

As a woman — as well as a respected leader — in a union where males have always been in the majority, Chris understood the special challenges that her position involved. But her advocacy for women was never adversarial. She wanted workplace justice for men and women alike, and devoted as much energy, passion and good will to that cause as any member of IBEW 1245 ever has.

Chris was 68 when she died. She was a member of IBEW 1245 for 39 years.



Chris befriends a young volunteer during a community service project in Reno last summer.



Chris on the Executive Board in 2002.



Chris at the party celebrating the preservation of the Lineman's Club sign a few years ago.



Chris on the PG&E bargaining committee in the early 1990s.



69 shop stewards attended the Public Sector/Private Sector training in Vacaville.

## Nearly 200 Stewards Attend Public Sector/Private Sector and Manufacturing Shop Steward Trainings

IBEW 1245 recently concluded a series of shop steward trainings designed specifically for our public sector, private sector and manufacturing sector shop stewards. The four trainings took place during the month of June and drew a total of 190 Shop Stewards from more than 50 different employers.

IBEW 1245 Business Representatives trained collaboratively with Stewards in the following areas: Weingarten Rights, led by Business Rep Sheila Lawton; Shop Steward Rights, led by Business Rep Al Fortier; Elements of Just Cause, led by Business Rep Sam Glero; What is a Grievance and Grievance Handling,

led by Business Reps Pat Waite and Randy Osborn; Past Practice, led by Business Rep J.V. Macor; and Duty of Fair Representation, led by Business Rep Charley Souder.



Participants at the manufacturing stewards training in Vacaville on July 14.



Business Manager Tom Dalzell addressing the shop stewards on June 2 in Reno.

## Contract Extension Approved at AnsaldoBreda

IBEW 1245 and AnsaldoBreda, Inc. have reached an agreement for a one-year extension of the collective bargaining agreement with a 2% cost-of-living wage increase. The company and the union signed off on the extension on June 8, 2015.

IBEW 1245 members at AnsaldoBreda in Pittsburg build and repair train cars for transportation systems throughout California, including San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SF MUNI). AnsaldoBreda Inc. recently landed a new contract with the Florida Transportation Association, and will also be working on the new rail system coming to Honolulu, Hawaii. The company has affirmed that these new contracts will increase the technician head count at the Pittsburg facility.

Shortly after AnsaldoBreda was awarded both the Florida and Hawaii contracts, Hitachi Ltd. purchased AnsaldoBreda from Finmeccanica in Feb-

ruary of 2015. In an all-hands-on-deck IBEW 1245 membership meeting at the Pittsburg facility on March 27, 2015, Business Representative Cruz Serna and Assistant Business Manager Ray Thomas listened to concerns from membership regarding the potential impact of the Hitachi takeover. The membership fully supported a one-year extension, which the union immediately presented to the company. The extension will remain in effect through May 26, 2016.

**Injured Shop Steward Update:** Following the March 27 all-hands meeting, Samuel "Sammy" Bradley, IBEW 1245 Shop Steward at AnsaldoBreda, was seriously injured in a vehicular accident while driving his motorcycle home from work. Sammy made a great recovery and returned to work during the summer. During Sammy's absence, IBEW 1245 member Tracy Cheek stepped forward to assume IBEW 1245 Shop Steward status at AnsaldoBreda.

## IBEW 1245 Members Approve New Agreement at Delta Star



Members at Delta Star gathered for an informational meeting before casting their votes on the new agreement.

IBEW 1245 members at Delta Star, Inc. overwhelmingly ratified a new successor agreement by approximately 80%, with 122 of the 154 voting members approving the terms for a three-year agreement. Membership ballots were tallied on June 18.

"This agreement is the best agreement that IBEW members at Delta Star have seen in fifteen years," said IBEW 1245 Business Rep Cruz Serna.

The new agreement provides for general wage increases of 4% this year and 3% for each of the remaining two years of the contract. It also includes a bonus plan, improvements to the pension plan, reduced health care co-pays and increased allowances for vital safety gear including eye protection and work

boots.

The IBEW Shop Stewards held three separate employee explanation meetings on June 17, where they shared all of the elements of the agreement with the members at Delta Star. Following the explanations, many members expressed their appreciation to the

Union's negotiation committee, which was made up of shop stewards Danny Kutulas, Robert Candelaria, Sean Jacobs and Alberto Marquez, along with Local 1245 Business Representative Cruz Serna and Assistant Business Manager Ray Thomas.

"Cruz and I had great negotiating committee members at Delta Star, but a very special thanks goes out to Shop Steward Danny Kutulas, a 49-year Delta Star employee and IBEW member," said IBEW 1245 Assistant Business Manager Ray Thomas. "Danny has been negotiating agreements at Delta Star since the early 1970s and he brought all of that history to our 2015 table. Danny was key in our achieving and ratifying the terms for this successor agreement."

