

Inside:



# Utility Reporter



© GCU 889-M

Volume 68 No.3 • July-Sept 2019

UNITY IS STRENGTH

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

Transforming Transformers	6
Union Election Results	3
SMUD Lights Up Navajo	4
Warrior to Workplace	10
New Wildfire Law	11
State Senate Special Election	12
Rodeos	13
Safety	14
Outside Construction	16
U-N-ME Expands to SMUD	18
Meet Bobo	20
Advisory Council	24
Tree Trimmers	27
Audit	30
Nevada	32
Retirees	34
Pin Dinners	37
Community	42
In Memoriam	43



Lineman Willis Bland from NV Energy moves a wire in Tuscarora, Nevada. Story on page 32.

*“There’s a lot of good things about the union. You have them looking out for you, watching your back. You have somebody advocating for you on your behalf. If you have problems, if you have questions, the union’s there. To me, that’s huge.”*

— NV Energy Lineman Willis Bland



**Tom Dalzell**  
Business Manager

## The Ultimate Test

This summer, our union faced the ultimate test of what we have been building for years — our political power. Local 1245 played a major role in drafting Assembly Bill 1054 — the new wildfire bill — and our members were on the front lines of the lobbying effort that ushered it through.

In the last week before the California Legislature recessed for the summer, AB 1054 was heard in a Senate committee, passed the Senate, was heard by an Assembly committee, passed the Assembly, and was ultimately signed into law by Governor Newsom. Rarely do bills ever move this fast.

I say we faced a test because the legislation had many powerful and vocal opponents — and had they been successful, the future of the utility industry in California would have been in jeopardy. While AB 1054 is not guaranteed to wholly fix the problems wildfires pose for our union, we know that had it not passed, failure would be inevitable.

AB 1054 was designed to stabilize California's utilities in the wake of the climate-driven fires that have demolished communities, killed dozens of people, threatened the viability of electric utilities all across the state, and thrown PG&E into bankruptcy.

Key components of the bill are:

**A \$21 billion fund to address damage and support recovery efforts.** Instead of requiring utilities to pay the full cost associated with wildfires that involve their equipment, the new law sets up a \$21 billion fund to cover costs associated with future fires.

The cost will be split between customers (by extending an existing \$2.50 monthly charge that was set to expire) and investors.

**A \$5 billion fund for improvements and prevention.** Shareholders are required to spend \$5 billion on updating equipment and other grid hardening measures to prevent future fires.

**A June 30, 2020 deadline.** PG&E is required to exit bankruptcy and pay out all claims by wildfire victims by June 30, 2020.

The political power behind this solution starts with our members. (Learn more about AB 1054 on page 11.) Our Organizing Stewards have worked on campaigns throughout California for the last several election cycles, demonstrating our ability to elect worker-friendly candidates. Our criteria for support has nothing to do with political party. When evaluating candidates, we ask one key question: How will they support Local 1245 members? We've worked to elect lawmakers from both parties who stand on the right side of our issues, so when the time came for them to vote on this critical bill, we knew that we could count on them.

And to make sure our allies (and our fair-weather friends) in the Legislature knew how important this bill is to us, nearly 100 of our union members walked the halls of the Capitol lobbying for the wildfire bill, including almost 20 linemen who are part of 1245's newly formed Emergency Response Team. The ERT meets directly with lawmakers that represent areas in PG&E's service territory, and has been successfully building relationships in the legislature and executive branch, on both sides of the aisle. Our team is honest, candid, and blunt when meeting with officials, urging them to consider and respect the enormous value that highly-skilled professionals add to California's power infrastructure — and encouraging them not to burn bridges.

This two-track approach, combined with a strong team of lawyers and lobbyists, allows us to punch well above our

weight. (We have even heard that some in Sacramento refer to us as the fourth branch of government.) We don't spend lavishly — our capital is our members. Using a simple set of tools, we did what few believed to be possible: deliver a bill that protects our members while maintaining safe and reliable energy for 40 million Californians.

This approach serves us well in California, and has also paid dividends in Nevada. We are also using our political

infrastructure to navigate PG&E's ongoing bankruptcy, and to size up the various hedge fund consortiums that are making plays.

The past several years have posed enormous challenges to our union — from the wildfires, to political turmoil, to bankruptcy, and more. Combatting the attacks that threaten us can seem very complicated, but when we go back to the basics, the path is clear: build power, and use that power to help our members.

## Dylan Gottfried Joins IBEW 1245 Staff

IBEW 1245 welcomed its newest Assistant Business Manager, Dylan Gottfried, to the union staff in June. Gottfried has over 25 years of experience working with and managing union-represented employees. At 1245, he will be working with business reps and members at 1245's public- and private-sector properties.

Before joining the union staff, Gottfried worked at PG&E in the Labor Relations department, where he served as principal negotiator for gas, aviation, IT and sourcing. He was also responsible for all day-to-day labor relations in power generation, and oversaw dozens of grievances as the chair of the Company's Pre-Review Committee/Review Committee grievance team.

Gottfried has a long track record of union activism, stemming from his years as a member of Teamsters Local

315. As a Teamsters shop steward, he helped his co-workers at UPS as they fought for justice and fairness on the job. He was an active member of the Teamsters Stewards' Council, and also served as the union's treasurer for several years.

"I'm excited to return to the House of Labor, as I truly believe in the union cause and the work that 1245 does for its members," he said. "I think this new role will allow me to make the best use of my skillset, and it's also a wonderful opportunity for me and my family."

Gottfried lives in Fair Oaks with his wife and two young children, ages 6 and 3. In his free time, he enjoys dirt biking and trains. He's also a power gen aficionado and has always dreamed of one day becoming a hydro operator. He has a Bachelors degree in finance and risk management, and a Masters in Business Administration from CSU Sacramento.



Dylan Gottfried



## Free College

The Union Plus Free College Benefit offers working families an accessible, debt-free and convenient higher education opportunity. You, your spouse, children, financial dependents and grandchildren can all benefit from this exciting program.

Learn more at  
[unionplus.org](http://unionplus.org)



### Utility Reporter

July — September 2019  
Volume 68 No. 3  
Circulation: 22,800



**Business Manager/  
Financial Secretary**  
Tom Dalzell

**Communications  
Director/Managing  
Editor** Rebecca Band

**President**  
Cecelia De La Torre

**Vice President**  
James "Hammer"  
Hayes

**Recording Secretary**  
Rachel Ramirez

**Treasurer**  
Tom Cornell

**Executive Board  
— Northern Area**  
Steve Segale

**— Northeastern Area**  
Ryan Morris

**— Central Area**  
Gary Maschio

**— Southern Area**  
William Garris

**— Line Clearance  
Tree Trimmers and  
Outside Construction**  
Scott Hudelson

**— At-Large PG&E  
General Construction**  
Stan Zamora

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.

Our phone number is  
(707) 452-2700.

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.

Our website can be viewed  
at [www.IBEW1245.com](http://www.IBEW1245.com).

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

Follow and tag us  
on **Instagram**  
[@ibew\\_1245](https://www.instagram.com/ibew_1245)

[twitter.com/IBEWlocal1245](https://twitter.com/IBEWlocal1245)



# 2019 Union Election Results



## Executive Board, Officers and Examining Board

### President and Delegate to the International Convention of the IBEW

Cecelia De La Torre ..... 807  
 Cloudell Douglas Jr. .... 301  
 Michael Scafani ..... 623

### Vice President

James "Hammer" Hayes .... 713  
 Nathan Datus ..... 221  
 Kevin Krummes ..... 496  
 Carl "CO" Olguin ..... 234

### Recording Secretary

Rachel Ramirez ..... 869  
 Sonia Brum ..... 275  
 Mona McCarthy ..... 495

### Treasurer

Tom Cornell (unopposed) .. 1520

### Business Manager/Financial Secretary and Delegate To the International Convention of the IBEW

Tom Dalzell (unopposed) ... 1558

### Executive Board — Northern Area

Steve Segale ..... 113  
 Travis Carlson ..... 61  
 Nilda Garcia ..... 88  
 Steve Mayfield ..... 85  
 Ivan Pereda ..... 49

### Executive Board — Northeastern Area

Ryan Morris ..... 48  
 Zachary Romeo ..... 22  
 Charles Sala ..... 19

### Executive Board — Central Area

Gary Maschio ..... 218  
 Ruben Hernandez ..... 203

### Executive Board — Southern Area

William Garris ..... 113  
 Don Barker ..... 55  
 Miguel Pagan ..... 40  
 Pedro Sandoval Jr. .... 95  
 LaQuania "Q" Thompson .... 68

### Executive Board — Outside Construction and Tree Trimming Companies

Scott Hudelson ..... 111  
 Cole Dorsey ..... 63

### Executive Board — General Construction of PG&E at Large

Stan Zamora ..... 69  
 Suzy Laughlin ..... 33  
 Richard Olguin ..... 49

### Examining Board (Three Seats Available)

Robert MacLauchlan ..... 954  
 Grant Todd ..... 878

## Advisory Council\*

### San Joaquin Division of PG&E

Daniel Mayo (unopposed)

### Coast Valleys Division of PG&E

Todd Kadota (unopposed)

### Diablo Canyon Nuclear Generating Station

Chris Risley ..... 67  
 Jamar Parker ..... 10  
 Ronald Greenlee ..... 20

### Alameda/Contra Costa Transit District & East Bay Municipalities

Michael Patterson (unopposed)

### East Bay Division of PG&E — Physical

Phuong Tran (unopposed)

### San Francisco Division and General Office of PG&E — Physical

Damien Padilla (unopposed)

### Stockton Division of PG&E

Jodiah Castro (unopposed)

### Sacramento Regional Transit District

Lauren Bartlett (unopposed)

### NV Energy, TMWA, City of Fernley, Truckee Donner PUD, Mt Wheeler Power, Inc, Lassen Municipal Utility District, Wells Rea and Liberty Energy

Jonathon McCue ..... 29  
 Martin Kumle III ..... 27  
 Victor Barajas ..... 23

### De Sabla Division of PG&E

Sandi Busse (unopposed)

### Colgate Division of PG&E, Yuba County Water Agency, and City of Gridley

Michael Graning (unopposed)

### Sacramento Division of PG&E and City Light & Power

Marcos Luna (unopposed)

### Sacramento Municipal Utility District and City of Lodi

Earl Ferris II (unopposed)

### USBR, Western Area Power Administration

Patrick Severin (unopposed)

### Frontier Communications

Ken Lawson (unopposed)

### General Construction of PG&E at Large (3 seats)

(A) Geraldine Brooks (unopposed)  
 (B) Joanne Vilorio-McGrath (unopposed)

### Tree Trimmer Companies

James Hanlon ..... 13  
 Steve Speak ..... 12  
 Michael Clough ..... 6

### Clerical at Large of PG&E — Central Area

Kelly Gibbs ..... 74  
 Vickie St. Martin ..... 64

### Clerical at Large of PG&E — Southern Area

Brandon Fosselman (unopposed)

### Irrigation Districts (Merced ID, Turlock ID, Lindmore ID, Paradise ID, South Feather Power & Water Agency, Modesto ID and San Joaquin ID)

Rodrigo Flores (unopposed)

### City of Lompoc

Leo Ramirez ..... 13  
 Travis Border ..... 5  
 John Daniel ..... 3  
 Candace Koff ..... 0

### Manufacturing

Arnaldo Lizarraga (unopposed)

### City of Vallejo and Greater Vallejo Recreation District

Oni Brown (unopposed)

*\*Seats that are not listed had no valid nominations*

# Advisory Council Appointments

In July, the new Executive Board made the following appointments to vacant Advisory Council seats:

- Humboldt Division: Jim Walpole
- North Bay Division: Garrett Markwood
- California Gas Transmission: Janelle Bucci
- Clerical At-Large Northern Area: Alvin Dayoan
- TransCanada: Nick Corey
- General Construction At-Large (C): Richard Olguin
- Materials: Steve Mayfield

## CALENDAR

**Aug 24:** IBEW 1245 Day at the Ballpark, Oakland

**Sept 14:** IBEW/PG&E West Coast Lineman's Rodeo, Livermore

**Sept 21:** IBEW/PG&E Fleet Car Show, Winters

**Oct 5:** 32nd Annual IBEW 1245 Golf Tournament, Vacaville

**Oct 26:** Advisory Council Meeting, Vacaville

## Unit meeting changes

**Unit #1112, Bakersfield**, has moved its meeting time from 6pm to 5pm. The meeting dates and location will remain the same.

— Mark Rolow,  
 IBEW 1245 Business Rep

**Unit #3318, Elko**, has relocated its unit meeting to Round Table Pizza, 2503 Mountain City Hwy, Elko, NV. The meeting dates and time will remain the same.

— Mike Venturino,  
 IBEW 1245 Business Rep

## New Unit Meetings in Wheatland and Healdsburg

The IBEW 1245 Executive Board has established two new units which began monthly meetings in July.

**Unit #3615, Wheatland**, will meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 4pm at Primetime Pizza, 1920 State Highway 65, Unit #170, in Wheatland.

**Unit #3731, City of Healdsburg**, will meet on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30pm at Giorgio's Restaurant, 25 Grant Avenue, in Healdsburg.

**Learn more about IBEW 1245's structure and leadership at**

**<https://ibew1245.com/ourunion/structure/>**

IBEW 1245  
Members From  
SMUD Help

# “Light Up Navajo”



Electricity is something that most Americans take for granted. When we go home at night, we know that we'll be able to turn on the lights, charge our cell phones, take a hot shower, grab some food from the fridge and heat it up in the microwave. But for the 300,000 individuals who live on the Navajo Nation territory, access to power at home is anything but guaranteed.

Approximately 15,000 of the 55,000 homes located on the Navajo reservation do not have any electricity. In fact, 75% of all unelectrified homes in the United States are located within the Navajo Nation's 27,000-square-mile territory. For these families, there are no cell phone chargers, no refrigerators, no computers, no microwaves, no TVs or other common household appliances — and access to the most basic life-sustaining necessities is, at best, extraordinarily onerous. For example, without power, there is no clean running water, so these families must drive up to 15 hours every week to fill their 250-gallon water tanks so they can cook, clean and drink.

Most of these unelectrified homes are isolated in very rural areas, and with limited availability of government loans, connecting these households to the grid has proven to be costly, challenging, and slow. But this spring, the Navajo Nation and the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) partnered with the American Public Power Association (APPA) to launch a new pilot project, known as “Light Up Navajo,” in the hopes of electrifying many of these 15,000 homes.

According to APPA, more than 120 utility workers from 25 different public power companies — including five IBEW Local 1245 members from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) — volunteered to build lines that will connect more than 100 Navajo households to the grid. APPA and NTUA hope that this pilot project will pave the way for more electrification projects in the future.

## Destination: Four Corners

On Friday, April 26, the five-man IBEW 1245 team from SMUD embarked on their two-week “Light Up Navajo” volunteer mission. They drove for two days before finally arriving at the Navajo Nation, which is situated near the “four corners” region and includes parts of northeastern Arizona, southeastern Utah, and northwestern New Mexico. The SMUD crew had spent some time learning about the area and its unique tribal culture, so they knew that they

would be entering a community that's quite different from their own. They weren't exactly sure what to expect, but when they arrived, they were touched by the warm reception they received from NTUA and the Navajo people.

“They gave us an appreciation dinner, which was basically their way of showing how much they appreciated us coming down here, volunteering time to heat them up for the first time,” said SMUD Lineman and 16-year IBEW 1245 member Corey Smith. “It was pretty emotional watching the kids and the families all show up, and they made home-cooked meals. It was delicious, unbelievable food.”

“The hospitality is great, they've been very welcoming,” echoed SMUD Lineman Chris Worth, a 11-year IBEW member. “Everyone has been very comfortable to talk to. Great culture, good people, and very helpful. It's been very nice.”

“It's a great opportunity for us and for them — and it's very special to our people, especially the people that are get-

ting their lights on for the first time,” said David Yazzie, electrical service foreman with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority. “They have tears of joy, happiness and they're very appreciative. Something like this is only dreamt about.”

## Best Part of the Job

On the day that the *Utility Reporter* caught up with Smith, Worth and the rest of the SMUD crew, they were working on constructing a new service line that would reach 26 previously unelectrified customers in an area known as Black Mesa. The crew was tasked with setting about 200 poles and taps along the way.

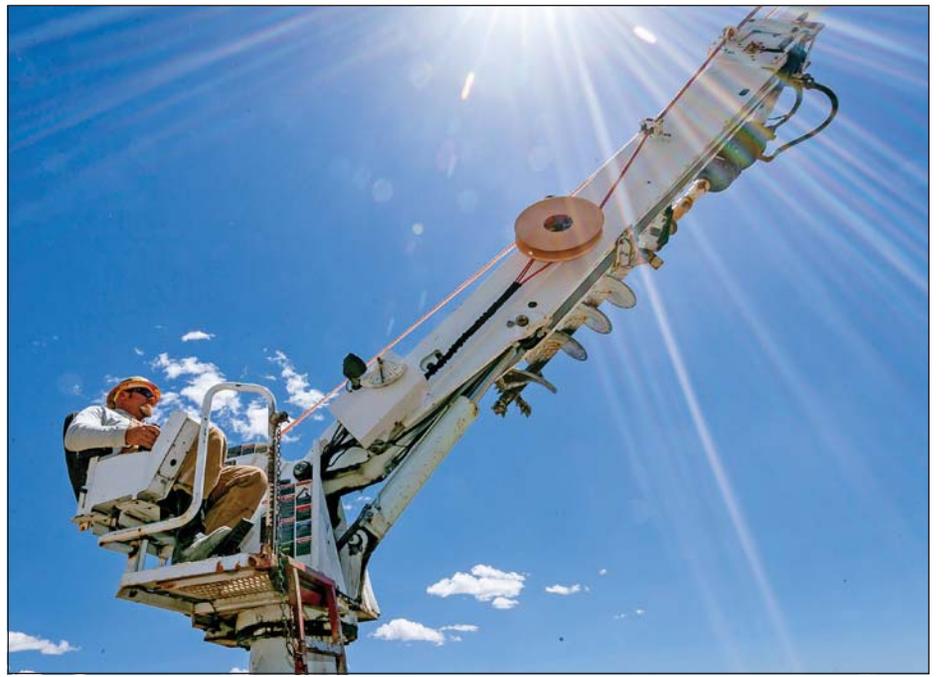
While the work itself is familiar to the SMUD crew, working in the Navajo Nation is a far cry from working at home in Sacramento. The terrain, while breathtakingly scenic, is also quite a challenge to traverse in SMUD's trucks, and GPS is practically non-existent, so they must rely on the locals for directions. The weather can be unpredictable at times, as this time of year often brings short but highly aggressive storms that would blow in quickly and forcefully, with winds strong enough to take a hard hat right off a lineman's head. Even the laws are different, as the Navajo Nation is governed by its own tribal authority that has put in place policies that some linemen might balk at, such as the strict prohibition on the use and possession of alcohol. And the utility infrastructure is unlike what the SMUD crew is accustomed to, with mostly single-phase con-

*“Once you plug that meter in, and they flip their main, and the kids start playing with the lights, and they can finally go shop for a refrigerator, or a TV ... It can get pretty emotional.”*

— SMUD Lineman Chris Worth



Chris Worth, left, Trededy Faddis, right, and Darrell Curley, middle, from NTUA frame a pole.



Corey Smith runs the line truck.



From left: James Cotten, Corey Smith and Kevin Cranford



Kevin Cranford, left, James Cotten, middle, and Corey Smith



struction and different types of framing and wiring. But the Local 1245 team from SMUD acclimated quickly, and before long, they were bringing electricity into homes that had never experienced it before — and the response from the residents was monumental.

“Once you plug that meter in, and they flip their main, and the kids start playing with the lights, and they can finally go shop for a refrigerator, or a TV ... It

can get pretty emotional,” said Worth. “They’re very grateful. It’s good to see. It’s the best part of our job, by far.”

“Some of them would actually cry because they were so happy to turn lights on for the first time. They’re clapping, yelling, screaming — it’s pretty amazing,” added Smith. “It’s not like back at home where you build a house, and you know you’re going to get power within a couple of weeks. Or if you have

power and it goes out, you can get it back within 24 hours with us. Some of these [Navajo families] have been waiting for 10 years to get power. Pretty crazy.”

The Navajo utility workers were exceptionally grateful to have the assistance of SMUD and the other public utilities to help them move this ambitious project forward.

“This is a big endeavor for us, and we appreciate SMUD being out here,

the brotherhood, the partnership and building long lasting relationships,” said NTUA’s Yazzie, who grew up on the reservation. “It’s been a great opportunity to learn from them and get that teamwork, that cohesiveness and sharing brotherhood. Good feeling, good spirits. It is awesome.”

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245  
Communications Director

Photos by John Storey

Utility Equipment Finds New Lease on Life at PG&E's Emeryville Repair Shop

# Transforming Transformers

Photos by John Storey

When a person is gravely ill, an emergency response team is quickly dispatched to the scene to bring that individual to the hospital. Interestingly enough, when a PG&E transformer is no longer operating as it should, the experience is somewhat similar. But in this instance, the emergency response team is a utility line crew — and the hospital is a specialized equipment repair facility staffed by a highly skilled team of IBEW 1245 electricians.

Many of PG&E's "sick" transformers and other equipment will end up being triaged at the company's Emeryville Repair Facility, which in some ways resembles a hospital intensive care unit — except the patients are all out-of-service equipment and parts.

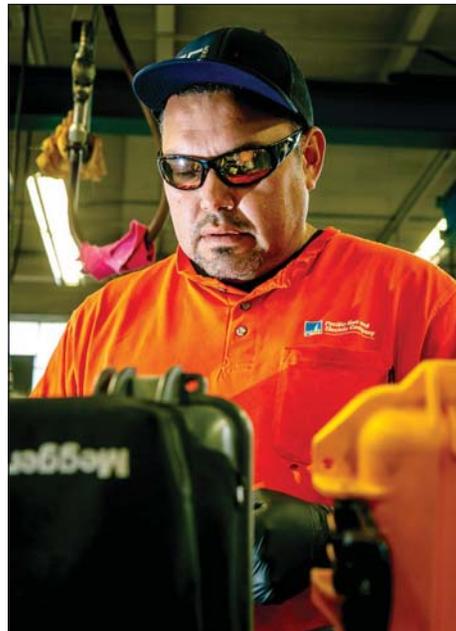
First, the equipment is assessed by an electrician, who will run several tests on it to determine what went wrong. If it's something fixable, the IBEW 1245 members at the shop take the necessary steps to repair it so it can go back into circulation — ostensibly giving old equipment a new lease on life.

When the *Utility Reporter* visited the repair shop in May, PG&E Electrician and 12-year IBEW member Orlando Morfin was working on an out-of-service transformer with a suspected leak that had been brought down from Santa Rosa.

"I just finished the TTR [transformer

turn ratio] testing, to make sure that it converts the voltage from the lower voltage to the higher voltage, and to check for any kind of grounds on the high side, the low side," Morfin explained. "So, I tested it to make sure it's good, and the next thing I'll be doing is checking for leaks... I'll pressure test it and put air into it, and if it's leaking then I repair the leak. Sometimes it's a bushing. Sometimes it's a sight glass. Sometimes, it's the fuse bayonet. It all depends."

Transformers aren't the only equipment that get serviced by the team at



Electrician Orlando Morfin



Michael Oler tests a transformer.



Machinist Jayson Gavaldon



From left: Tyler Anderson and Donald Kern of the scrap shop



From left: David Amaral, Ariel Jacob, Charlene Alexander, Ryan Hunt and Darryl Doos



Jose Vega works on his computer.



Carpenter Michael Deschaine



From left: Jayson Gavaldon, Glen Wyatt Sr., Brian Earley, Michael Oler, Brian Ebding, Chris Poppi, Orlando Morfin, Jose Vega, Ro Smith and Gary Galley

the shop. All sorts of components are fixed up here — and if the electricians need a part to perform a repair, their colleagues over on the machine shop side of the building are ready to pitch in.

According to PG&E Machinist and IBEW 1245 member Jayson Gavaldon, when PG&E needs a part that's not readily available, he and his colleagues will be tasked with fabricating it. When the *Utility Reporter* caught up with Gavaldon at the shop, he was working on some small gas components, and he says he is often tasked with these types of odds and ends.

"I get everybody's flex connectors, everybody's little target jobs that are put-in-a-bolt-in-a-bag, that's me," said Gavaldon. "They just give me the blueprint and I make it to the spec."

And over in the carpentry shop, IBEW 1245 members fulfill the company's wood-based orders. According to PG&E Carpenter Michael Deschaine, back in the days when the company had a fully operational foundry, the carpenters would be tasked with patterning, molding and casting for substations, specialty projects and whatever may arise in the field. But times have changed, and the work has changed too.

"Most of the work we do now is related to preparing equipment for shipment — to go to the yards, and out in the field," said Deschaine, who has been at the shop for 36 years. "So we're building skids for heavy pad mount equipment, beefing up stuff for pole vaults, things like that."

The Emeryville shop is one of PG&E's oldest facilities — it's been up and running for 95 years, and while the work that's gone on inside of it has changed dramatically over the years, the hard-working individuals who take on these tasks remain grateful to have IBEW 1245 looking out for them.

"The union fights for us any time we have a grievance, and they're there whenever we have questions. They can also point you in the right direction if you want to promote yourself," said Morfin. "And it helps with the bidding process to keep it fair, so if you want to transfer to another place or laterally, it helps you."

"One thing I like about the union is we're getting our benefits protected ... And they fight to keep the wages up, so we don't have to worry about making our bills every month," said Deschaine. "We're able to make a decent living here, and in today's economy, that's pretty good. I'd say that's one blessing about having the union."

"The union for me is a support structure," added Gavaldon. "They've been great to me. I have no complaints."

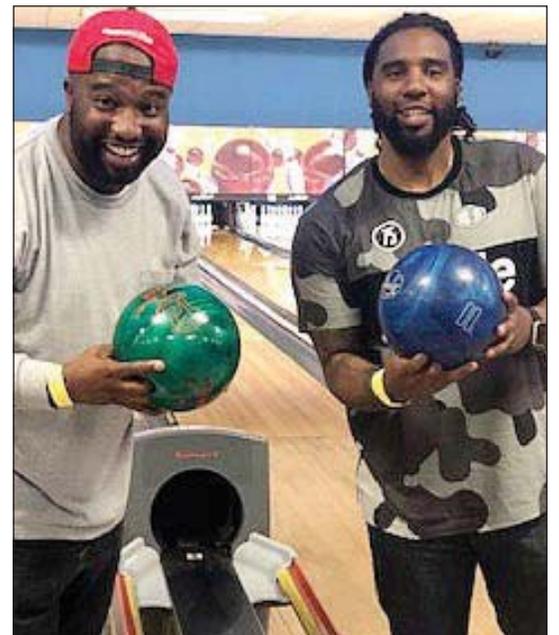
— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director

## EWMC Hosts Bowling Night Fundraiser



The Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) Solano Chapter hosted a bowling fundraiser on Friday, March 22 at the Starz Recreational Center in Vacaville. Twenty-nine union members and family participated in the event, which raised \$288 for the EWMC.

EWMC-Solano plans to do more events in the future to bring awareness to the organization and local. Keep up with EWMC-Solano on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/EWMCLocal1245SolanoCounty/>.



Photos by Que Thompson



## Local 1245 Members Attend IBEW International Utility Conference

The IBEW represents around 250,000 utility workers at 433 different locals in the United States and Canada — and each year, these members have an opportunity to come together to connect and learn at the annual IBEW International Utility Conference.

This spring, four Local 1245 members — Steve Marcotte, Charlotte Stevens, Isaac Mazon and Mark Makowiecki — attended the 2019 Utility Conference in Detroit, MI, where they were joined by hundreds of other utility workers from every corner of the IBEW's international jurisdiction.

“Walking into the utility conference, I was in awe over how big the IBEW is. We always see it on a local level, but to see how it works on an international level is amazing,” said Local 1245 member Isaac Mazon, who works for PG&E Fresno Fleet.

The action-packed two-day conference featured a wide range of dynamic speakers, including elected officials and leaders in the energy industry, who touched on some of the biggest hot-button issues facing the utility industry, like nuclear power and the Green New Deal.

“The IBEW recognizes the need for a Green New Deal, however the IBEW wasn't consulted on the cur-

rent proposal,” SMUD Line Inspector and 1245 member Mark Makowiecki reported from the conference. “The goals, as they were, were overambitious. Whatever the future of the Green New Deal may be, we as the IBEW want to have a say in what is put forth.”

Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to attend workshops on a variety of topics that impact utility employees, from PPE to call center operations.

“I never thought that 90 minutes on FR clothing could be interesting enough not to require a mid-presentation nap. I was wrong,” said PG&E Gas Service Rep and 1245 member Steve Marcotte. “It was well done and presented with a purpose, which is my personal safety.”

“My highlight from the clerical workshop was how one local reintroduced the Code of Excellence to their clerical section to lower absenteeism and remind members of the value and standard that union workers bring to the table,” said PG&E Customer Service Rep Charlotte Stevens.

As usual, our Local 1245 members were among the most outspoken participants at the conference.

“A proud 1245 moment for me was when one of the workshop presenters personally thanked me for the active participation from Local 1245 attendees, who



IBEW 1245 members (from left) Charlotte Stevens, Mark Makowiecki, Isaac Mazon and Steve Marcotte with International President Lonnie Stephenson (center)

help keep the discussion interesting for all attending,” said Marcotte.

Overall, the 1245 delegation valued the experience. “It was a pleasure and privilege to represent 1245 in the Motor City,” said Makowiecki.

“Thank you for selecting me to attend the conference,” said Stevens. “I gained valuable information from the experience that I would like to implement at our call center.”

“To know that there are other people as passionate as the ones in 1245 is a good sign that the union and our brotherhood will always be around if we stick together,” added Mazon.

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director



The 32nd Annual IBEW 1245 Golf Tournament is coming up on Oct. 5!

Register today at [bit.ly/ibew1245golf](http://bit.ly/ibew1245golf).

# Local 1245 Joins IBEW 9th District New Organizing Training

In early May, IBEW 1245 Organizing Stewards Arnaldo Lizarraga (Trayer), Mark Goodwin (PG&E Gas) and Phuong Tran (PG&E Gas) attended a comprehensive new organizing training in the East Bay, hosted by the IBEW 9th District. They were joined by IBEW organizers from Los Angeles, Seattle, Colorado and San Diego, and the group spent three intensive days learning all about growing the IBEW ranks by using different approaches to organize workers that are not yet unionized.

"I thought it was very informative. We learned about the ins and outs of organizing new workers and/or groups of workers ... it was very interesting to learn how it all worked, what the process was to get signatory workers or bring new members into the IBEW altogether," said Goodwin. "It was also nice to meet and hear from the organizers from other locals, learn what they do and what works or doesn't work for them."

"I learned that the core of organizing is building relationships, clear communication, and honesty," added Lizarraga. "IBEW International Rep Tracy Prezeau had us engaged throughout the training. She energized the room, which make me feel powerful in order to fight



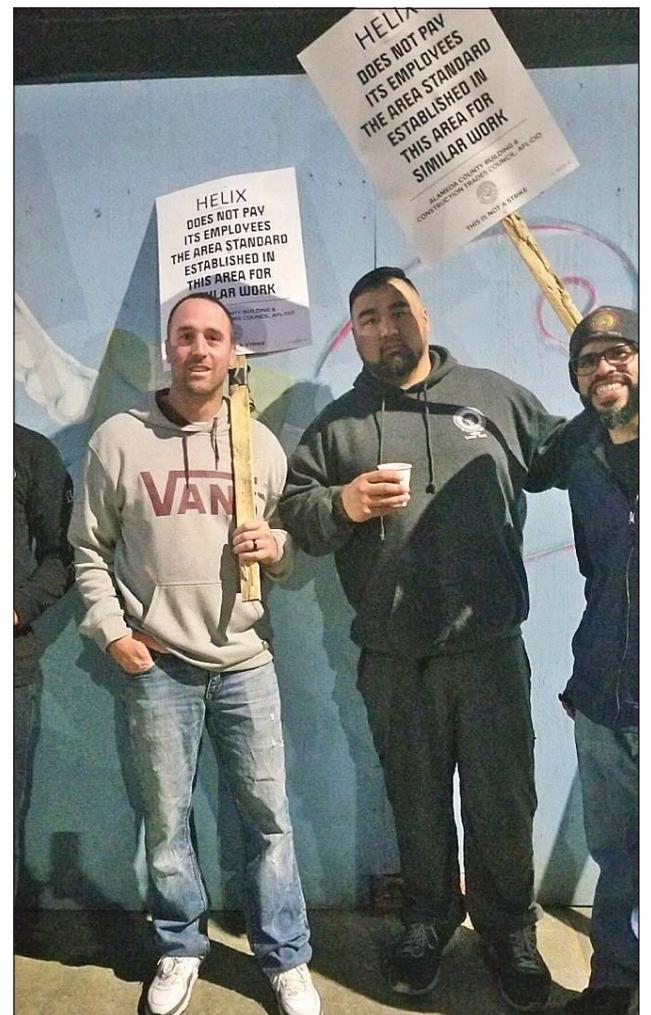
The IBEW 9th District New Organizing Training took place April 30-May 2 in the East Bay.

for the labor movement."

On the second day of the training, which coincided with May Day, the 1245 contingent stood in solidarity with IBEW 595, the Hayward-based inside local that's engaged in a labor dispute at Helix. Lizarraga, Goodwin and Tran picketed outside the Helix worksite from 5:30am until 7:30am.

"Wish we could have stayed longer with the rest of the group, but we had to get back to our class," said Goodwin.

"We were glad to wake up early and help our brothers and sisters in the fight. Thank you for the opportunity," said Lizarraga.



From left: Mark Goodwin, Phuong Tran and Arnaldo Lizarraga on the picket line at Helix



The IBEW 1245 delegation at the Alameda CLC's Labor Convergence on Climate

## IBEW 1245 Joins Labor Convergence on Climate

On April 13, the Alameda County Central Labor Council hosted "Labor Convergence on Climate," a one-day summit focused on the impact that climate change is having on working families. The solutions-oriented event featured a number of notable speakers and presenters, including IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell and Assistant Business Manager Hunter Stern. Organizing Stewards Phuong Tran, Arnaldo Lizarraga, Ruben Hernandez, David Ly, Nilda Garcia and Georgette Carrillo, along with 1245 staffers Al Fortier and Rene Cruz Martinez, also represented Local 1245 as participants at the summit.

Dalzell served as a panelist during a discussion on a "just transition" to a new, green economy. He explained how labor unions can protect jobs and help

prepare workers to fill the new green jobs of the future, citing a number of examples from Local 1245's own recent past.

"[I appreciated hearing about how] our union has protected and keeps jobs for members through technology and business changes," said Georgette Carrillo. "After Tom explained the issues with climate change and how it affects California's utilities, it seemed like the audience was more supportive of PG&E employees."

Stern helped to present a workshop on the PG&E bankruptcy, and detailed Local 1245's firm positions on related topics, including municipalization and breaking up the company.

"Hunter gave a great class on the bankruptcy process," reported David Ly.

## Local 1245 Receives Henry Miller Award for Excellence in Organizing

At the IBEW 9th District Progress Meeting, Local 1245 once again received the Henry Miller Award for its ongoing commitment to the IBEW's organizing principles over the past year. This marks the sixth consecutive year that Local 1245 has received this coveted award.



# “Warrior to Workplace”

IBEW 1245 member launches PTSD awareness program at PG&E

When Marine Corps veteran and 22-year IBEW 1245 member Kenny Meyer returned to his job at PG&E in 2006, after serving two tours of duty — first as Homeland Security, followed by a combat mission in Iraq — he wasn't the same guy that his co-workers once knew. He was angry, moody and sleep deprived, and even the slightest thing could set him off. He had trouble remembering and concentrating, he kept bumping heads with his supervisor, and he was really struggling, not just at work, but at home as well.

Meyer was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury (TBI) stemming from the five IEDs he had been hit by in Falluja, and he assumed that the TBI was the root cause of all his issues. His doctor had also told him that he has Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), but Meyer brushed it off.

“Back then, I thought that PTSD was for sissies, an excuse that people use to get out of doing things they don't want to do. That's the stigma that I had put to it,” Meyer recalled. “I told the doctor, ‘I don't know what you're talking about, I don't have PTSD. I can deal with my issues.’”

As a Marine, Meyer prided himself on being tough and independent, so he refused to get help for his PTSD, and continued to struggle with the condition, untreated, for nine long years. At his lowest point, he was exceedingly close to losing his job and his family. He contemplated running away from it all, leaving the career he once loved, as well as his wife and two young sons, because things had gotten that bad. But an interaction that he overheard between his kids changed the course of his life

forever.

“One day, I heard my little boys talking, and they didn't know that I could hear them. My youngest boy told his older brother that he's scared to death of daddy, because daddy is so mean and violent, and he doesn't want to be around daddy. That broke my heart,” Meyer choked up with emotion as he recounted the complete breakdown he had at work the following day. “That's when I knew that something was wrong with me, and that's when I reached out to get help.”

Meyer went to the Veterans Affairs Hospital (VA) and entered an intensive treatment program for combat vets with PTSD. At first, he was skeptical, but after working with a psychiatrist, a psychologist and a counselor three days a week for almost three years, Meyer finally started to feel like himself again.

“It was a hard road, and I've learned a lot of things... but I'd consider myself a success story with PTSD,” he said, noting that while he will never be cured of the condition, his treatment helps him manage it so he can once again excel at work, and be the husband and father his family deserves.

## “We need to help each other out”

When he returned to work, Meyer apologized to his supervisor and explained what he'd been going through. His supervisor apologized too, because he didn't realize that Meyer had a medical condition and needed treatment. Word got around about Meyer's experience, and soon other supervisors were asking Meyer what they should do

about veterans on their crews who were also having trouble. That gave Meyer an idea.

He contacted Joyce Ibardolasa, PG&E's Director of Performance and Inclusion, and asked if they could work together to develop a PTSD awareness pilot program for supervisors. She jumped at the idea, knowing that it had the potential to help veterans in the workforce and reduce stigma around PTSD and other mental health conditions.

“We know that there are other people at PG&E who are struggling just like I was. Instead of assuming that person is a bad employee, a troublemaker, not worth anything... We need to help each other out when we see somebody struggling,” said Meyer. “We're all a big family here, and I want the leadership in PG&E to be able to recognize the signs and symptoms of PTSD so they could reach out to try to help their employee, and not [inadvertently] hurt or hinder their employee.”

Meyer asked his therapist from the VA, Kira Serna, to help lead the workshops, and before long, Meyer, Serna and Ibardolasa were standing in front of a room full of 60 supervisors from substation maintenance, talking about PTSD. The first “Warrior to Workplace” session, which was held in 2018, was incredibly well-received, and the feedback from those who attended underscored that everyone at the company — not just supervisors — could benefit from this knowledge. Soon other workgroups started calling for the workshop and they began holding sessions all over the system for both supervisors and the rank-and-file.

On the day that the *Utility Reporter* caught up with Meyer and his team in Walnut Creek, they were leading their seventh session of the year, presenting to about 20 employees from substation maintenance, all of whom had volunteered to attend, and only one of whom had personally served in the armed forces. Michael Coyle from PG&E's Performance and Inclusion Department kicked off the session (Ibardolasa was on vacation that day), and then Meyer shared his emotionally charged personal story, including the remarkable turnaround he's experienced since seeking treatment. Serna talked about the stigmas and strengths associated with being a veteran in the workforce, and then dove into a thorough overview of PTSD. She highlighted some of the most common symptoms to look out for, explained the neurobiology behind PTSD, underscored red flags (including warning signs of suicide), and detailed the

best practices for intervention by creating an environment of safety. The session concluded with an overview of the company's employee assistance program and other resources that are available to help workers who are struggling with PTSD, but Serna let the attendees know that even if someone isn't ready to pursue treatment, just being there for a co-worker who is going through PTSD can have an enormous impact.

“You can be a part of changing someone's life,” she emphasized to the attendees. “Professional support is great, but peer support is so much more powerful.”

## “Our brothers' and sisters' keepers”

In recent years, PG&E has been striving to increase the number of veterans it employs, with a goal of having 9% of its new recruits coming out of the armed forces. And there's a reason for that, according to Meyer.

“Veterans are some of the best employees you can get. They're good followers, they're good leaders and they are highly trained individuals. They're very loyal and team driven,” said

Meyer, who is an I&C working foreman B, but is currently on a temporary assignment as a T-line supervisor. “But anybody can get PTSD, not just veterans. We're seeing it more and more, especially now with the all the wildfires and people losing their homes.”

“Through this program, my hope is for people to just have more empathy, to do a little bit more for somebody that is struggling with PTSD. Because it is a real thing,” Meyer added. “It makes a safe atmosphere at work when you know you can trust and help your teammates out. We are all our brothers' and sisters' keepers — and if I can help even one brother or sister, I consider that a positive.”

**If you or someone you know is struggling with PTSD, help is available through the veterans' crisis hotline, 1-800-273-8255 or online at <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/>. Non-veterans can call the National Alliance on Mental Illness hotline at 800-950-NAMI or text “NAMI” to 741741. PG&E employees can also use the EAP hotline, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 888-445-4436.**

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director

everyday  
HEROES



Kenny Meyer, during his tour of duty in Iraq



Photo by John Storey

Meyer, front row center, with his I&C crew on a tower painting project in 2017.



Dozens of IBEW 1245 activists descended on the State Capitol to urge lawmakers to vote in favor of AB 1054.

## Local 1245 Activists Propel New Wildfire Legislation Into Law

IBEW 1245 members have been working around the clock for many months to harden the grid in order to mitigate the risk of wildfire. But the new normal in California — hotter, drier weather, an overgrowth of foliage that can turn into fire fuel in an instant, and increasingly unpredictable winds — means that we may still be at risk of another catastrophic wildfire. With so much at stake, IBEW 1245 put pressure on California legislators to reform the state’s outdated policies regarding utility-related wildfires — reforms that are sorely needed not just for the utilities, but for the wildfire victims, the workers, and the communities across California that deserve safe and reliable electricity.

In early July, just days before the legislative recess, and with a potential credit rating downgrade looming for all of California’s utilities if the legislature failed to act, we succeeded in passing AB 1054, a critical piece of legislation that will reform and modernize our state’s policies regarding wildfires that involve utility equipment. The final vote in the State Assembly came just one day after a large group of IBEW 1245 activists — including dozens of organizing stewards, retirees and emergency response team members — descended on the Capitol to demonstrate their support for the bill. AB 1054 had already been approved by the State Senate earlier that week, and was subsequently signed into law by Gov. Newsom the following day.

“There’s no doubt in my mind that our members played a significant role in the passage of this bill,” said IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. “After the bill passed the Senate, rumors indicated that it may be stalled in the Assembly. But our army of activists flooded the halls of the Capitol, speaking directly with Assemblymembers and their staffers to explain why this bill is essential, not only for our members’ livelihoods, but for the millions of utility customers in hundreds of

communities around the state. Local 1245 members made their voices heard, the Assembly heeded the call, and the end result is a new policy that will make our utility infrastructure safer and more resilient to fire, while simultaneously ensuring that wildfire victims are compensated quickly and fairly.”

This new law will:

- Create a structured \$21 billion insurance fund for utility-related wildfires. Together, California’s three investor-owned utilities (IOUs) will contribute \$10.5 billion, and the state will contribute another \$10.5 billion. The fund will be exclusively used for utility-related fire costs, including fire victim compensation. This provision will ensure that utilities have access to the capital they need so our members can continue critical grid-hardening projects and upgrades.
- Implement a new fire safety certification process with oversight, requiring each IOU to submit, get approval, and enact a comprehensive fire mitigation and safety plan. Any utility that doesn’t have a certified safety plan in place would be held wholly responsible for any fire involving their equipment.
- Strengthen worker protection language in the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) code, expanding upon the language we advocated for and implemented last year through SB 901. Getting this improved language into AB 1054 was Local 1245’s top priority, and the process was exceedingly challenging, but we are pleased that the worker protections we pushed for were incorporated into the final version of the bill.

Read the full bill at [bit.ly/AB\\_1054](https://bit.ly/AB_1054).

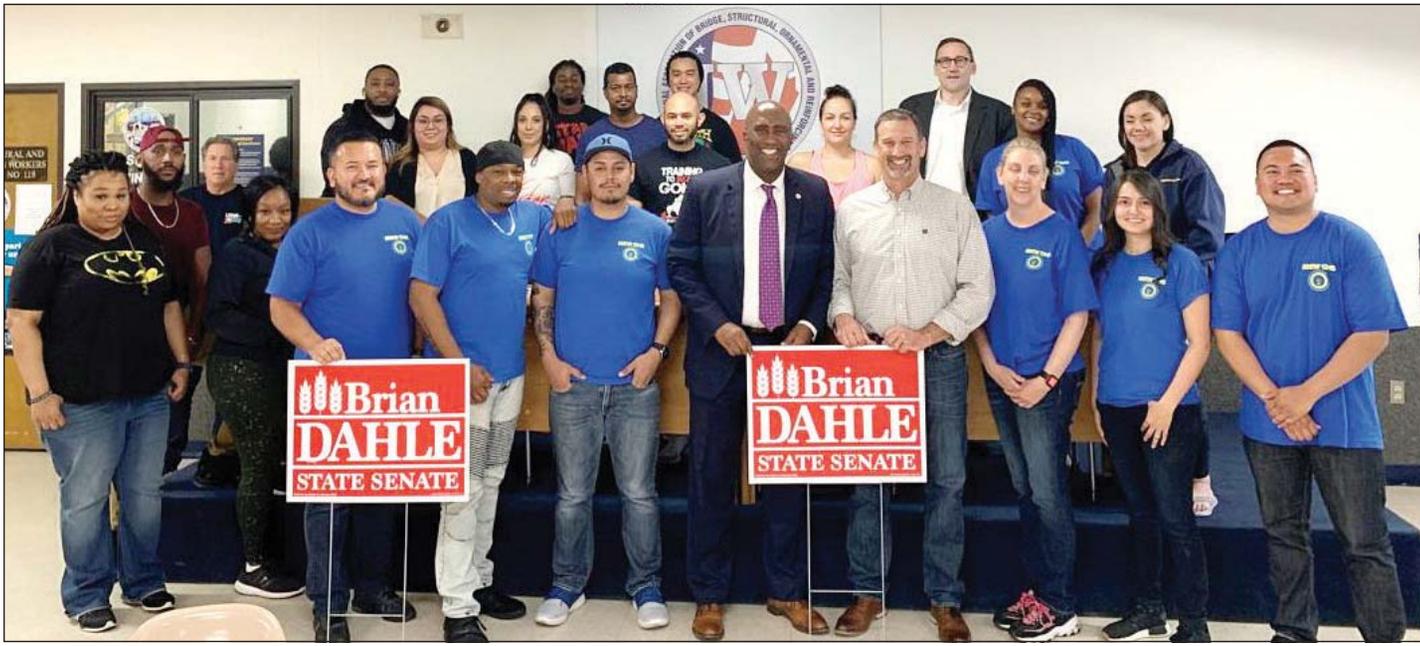
“I couldn’t be more proud of what our members have accomplished in Sacramento over the past year,” said Dalzell. “IBEW 1245 is truly a force to be reckoned with in the Capitol.”

### *Member-Held PG&E Stocks in Retirement Accounts Would be Trued Up Under Bondholder Reorganization Plan*

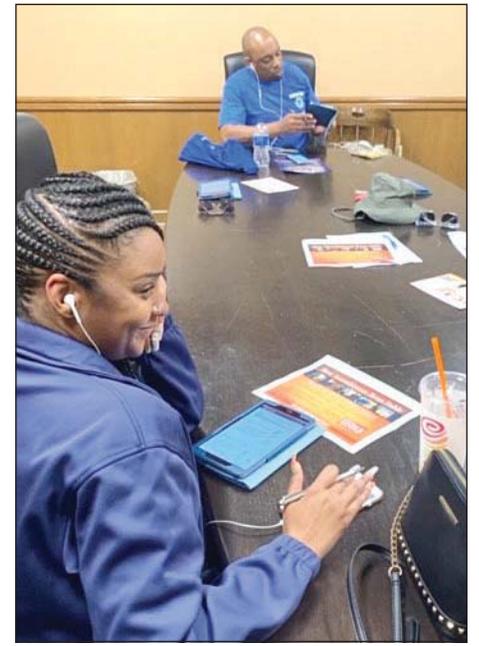
The union has received a number of inquiries from IBEW 1245 members and retirees who are concerned that their PG&E stock in company retirement accounts could be diluted under the recently proposed bondholder reorganization plan.

According to the court filing, “All PG&E Corp. common stock currently held by employees and retirees in pension accounts, 401(k) accounts and company-sponsored plans will be trued-up for any dilution on account of the Plan with new equity issuances within 90 days after the Effective Date. Such equity interests will be structured to comply with all applicable securities laws.”

For the latest news and updates on the PG&E bankruptcy, visit [ibew1245.com/pge-bankruptcy](https://ibew1245.com/pge-bankruptcy)



Phone bank volunteers with State Senator-Elect Brian Dahle at the Sacramento Labor Council



Bridgette Thomas and Donny Davis making calls to voters to drum up support for Dahle

## Local 1245 Propels Republican Brian Dahle to Victory in State Senate Special Election

As a member of the California State Assembly, Republican Brian Dahle raised more than a few eyebrows last year when he voiced his strong support of SB 901, the wildfire bill that IBEW 1245 advocated for in 2018. Dahle proved that he's willing to stand with 1245 and take on the tough fights in defense of our members and the communities they serve, so when he announced his candidacy to fill the State Senate seat formerly held by Ted Gaines (who was elected to the Board of Equalization in November), IBEW 1245 was quick to endorse Dahle's campaign.

Dahle — who previously served as the Assembly Republican Leader and takes pride in his background as a farmer and small business owner — isn't your typical labor-endorsed candidate. His party affiliation alone would likely cause many other unions to write him off entirely. But Local 1245 firmly believes that the key factor when determining whether a candidate should receive the union's support is where that candidate stands on the issues that have the biggest impact on our members. IBEW 1245 looked at Dahle's track record on critical utility issues, and decided not only to endorse him, but also to dispatch a team of Local 1245 organizing stewards to work on his behalf for the special election. Additionally, Local 1245 advocated for the endorsement of Dahle at the Sacramento Central Labor Council, which allowed Dahle to amass far more labor support than his campaign had anticipated.

"The Sacramento Central Labor Council

stepped in and helped manage the campaign, so our team was able to work directly with them," Local 1245 Organizing Steward Vanessa Mejia reported. "We had a very successful phone bank at the Labor Council, with Brian Dahle making an appearance and even calling voters himself! It was a great turnout and I know it made a difference."

While 1245 and the Labor Council helped coalesce union support for Dahle, running a labor-backed campaign for a GOP lawmaker wasn't without its hiccups. Things got off to a bit of a rocky start, but Local 1245 quickly got Dahle's team up to speed on what it means to be a union-endorsed candidate. Local 1245 staffers Hunter Stern and Rene Cruz Martinez worked with Dahle's campaign manager and the Labor Council to craft campaign literature that would appeal to voters of all parties (given that his opponent was also a Republican, Dahle's ability to garner support from Democrats and 'No Party Preference' voters in the district could make or break the election). Local 1245 also helped to connect the campaign with a unionized print shop to make sure his campaign materials were union-made.

While Dahle's opponent, Republican Kevin Kiley, was busy smearing Dahle for his support of SB 901, the Local 1245 organizing stewards were diligently working to get out the vote on Kiley's home turf in Placer county.

"The campaign was impressed by the rate of precincts we were completing and the effectiveness of the new lit-

erature," said Lead Organizing Steward Alvin Dayoan. "We were able to speak to more people at the doors and have effective conversations on why it is important to gain their support for our candidate."

"It was a huge surprise for me to see how much the union does for the candidates, and how much the organizing stewards do to make [the campaign] a huge success," said new Organizing Steward Dana Johnson, who also happens to be a registered Republican. "I learned so much."

The 1245 team, which was comprised of both Republicans and Democrats, willingly set their party affinities aside to support the most pro-union candidate in the race.

"I must say when telling my family about this campaign I did get a little backlash, but one thing I had to explain is that Brian Dahle definitely helped us out with the SB 901 bill, which helped save my job and many others, and for that reason alone I decided to accept the challenge of working this campaign!" said Organizing Steward Bridgette Thomas. "[On the campaign] I was challenged to have those tough conversations when approaching a home full of Democrats ... but educating the voters on what he stands for is key. Not to mention he's for the working people, and he works across party lines."

"The Dahle campaign was definitely something new for me; never did I think I would find myself out canvassing for a Republican!" echoed Organiz-

ing Steward Ramon Gonzalez. "It was a good experience however, because we got to gauge what all voters feel, not just Democrats."

The special election was held on Tuesday, June 4, and once all the votes were counted, Brian Dahle took the win with a little over 53% of the vote, while his opponent garnered just under 47%. A total of 132,815 ballots were cast, which is an outstanding turnout for a special election held with relatively short notice.

"The big win came from the areas where our organizing stewards put in the work," said Staff Organizer Rene Cruz Martinez, who served as a liaison with the Dahle campaign and helped coordinate the 1245 campaigners. "Dahle's campaign was not optimistic that we would be able to win, as his opponent was supposedly the heavily favored candidate, especially in Placer county, which is where we spent a lot of time getting out the vote. Dahle ended up getting 39% of the vote in Placer, where Kiley was expected to take 80% of the votes."

"This campaign is a true demonstration of the influence and power that organized labor brings to the table, and is a great example of how we can work across party lines to help those politicians who are friends of labor," Cruz Martinez added. "I am glad to have been part of this campaign, where I was able to look outside of party politics and learn from the other side."

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director



Dahle met with IBEW 1245 members in Grass Valley at the start of the campaign.



The Local 1245 organizing stewards who were released to the Dahle campaign (from left) Dana Johnson, Donny Davis, Bridgette Thomas, Vanessa Mejia, and Alvin Dayoan



Alvin Dayoan delivers a lawn sign to a Dahle supporter.



Dana Johnson (right) with Dahle shortly after he was sworn in



Pictured on the left is Chris Bryant, on the right is Jordan Michaud. Their team placed 30th out of 78 Journeyman teams.

# Rodeos

## Local 1245 Members Compete at APPA Lineworkers Rodeo

The City of Redding sent four IBEW 1245 members to the American Public Power Association (APPA) Lineworker's Rodeo in Colorado Springs, Colorado on March 29-30. Local 1245 members from City of Roseville, SMUD and Truckee Donner PUD also competed in the nationwide event.  
 — Dominic McCurtain, IBEW 1245 Business Rep



The team won a number of events and came in 2nd overall at the SDG&E Rodeo.

## Local 1245 Members Place Second at SDGE Rodeo, Third at LADWP Rodeo

IBEW 1245 members and PG&E Linemen Jordan Chene, Jacob "Floppy" Hunt and Dustin Curry took second place overall at the San Diego Gas & Electric Rodeo, and third place overall at the LADWP Lineman's Rodeo. Way to make us proud!



The team took first place in the journeyman obstacle event and third place overall at the LADWP Lineman's Rodeo.

Save the Date!

IBEW 1245/PG&E Lineman's Rodeo on Sept 14!  
 More details and registration info at  
<http://bit.ly/LinemanRodeo>

# Control the Pressure Committee Holds Annual Gas Safety Summit

On May 8, 2019, IBEW 1245's Control the Pressure (CTP) peer-to-peer safety committee hosted its annual Safety Summit at the union hall in Vacaville.

Forty-one gas safety stewards from all across the union's jurisdiction came together at this year's summit to have candid discussions about the safety-related issues and challenges they face at work.



CTP Committee Chair Ernie Pena opened the summit with a traditional moment of silence to honor our fallen brothers, followed by introductions and a safety briefing. The group then moved into a discussion on some of the CTP committee's top priorities and projects, including quick clot, employee alerts, and hazards with the Jomar valves, among other things. Members brought up the need for anti-venom for crews working in remote locations and satellite phones for hard-to-reach jobsites. Many of our members work in places where there is little to no communication or access to immediate medical attention, which leaves them to rely on one another until help can be summoned.

The committee highlighted the importance of everyone on the crew not being afraid to speak up. Each and every member ought to be a safety leader in their profession, and do the job right all

the time. There was some discussion about why different departments have different crew make-ups for the same jobs — for example, valve change is a one-man job in field service, but for OM&C it was a two-man job, then it was changed to one-man in some areas, but still a two-man job and in other areas.

The group also discussed OQs, which are intended to set us up to do the job the right way and ensure that we are competent in our job at every level. Several members expressed concern that the focus is more on testing and studying rather than hands-on field work. Members are being trained to pass a test — not to do the job correctly through repetitive, consistent training. The topic of five-minute meetings also came up. Some members noted that not everybody gets to be there for the presentation, and they are sometimes being used to update existing procedures without an official change to the procedure language.

The gas safety stewards also discussed some of the other challenges they face in the field. GSRs talked about the concerns they have regarding doing maintenance work at dusk or dinner time, because it's bad for customer service and unsafe for the workers. Mark & Locate is being pushed quite hard by

new supervision to get numbers, prompting members to cut corners on safety, for instance opening electrical boxes for locates when they're not QEWs. Ultimately, the stewards agreed that safety is up to the workers, and it's our responsibility to do the job right each and every time when we're out in the field. The company cannot force us to do our job safe — that's our responsibility.

The topic of the CAP program also came up. CTP wants to encourage folks who are having difficulty with the CAP Program to submit their safety related CAP numbers to the CTP committee, and CTP will try to help out. The committee is dedicated to seeing this program grow in the hopes that it will help all gas workers work safer.

CTP hosted a special guest speaker named Kayla Rath. At last year's summit, Rath's father spoke about his grievous injury, and this year, Kayla recounted the experience from her own perspective. At the time of the accident,

she was just nine years old, and she told the summit attendees what it was like for her on that day when she was pulled out of school and told her father may not live. Her talk left a lasting impression on the attendees, and the point she made about the impact that the accident had on the rest of her life is something all parents should think about.

Overall, the summit was highly impactful and the committee would like to thank all who participated. Control the Pressure also wants to remind all members to remain vigilant when reviewing your work. Be sure to check, and double check, especially in emergency situations. Remember that the employers want us to do things the right way all the time. The only way we can do that is to get up each day and tell ourselves that we are going to work safe, and we are going to be sure that our brothers around us are going to work safe as well.

— Casey Kelley,  
IBEW 1245 Business Rep



## Gas Service Emergency Protocol Innovation Earns IBEW 1245 Members the Sibley Safety Award

Workplace safety has always been our union's core value, ever since the founding of the IBEW in the late 1800s, and each and every day, IBEW 1245 members are continually looking for ways to enhance safety for both workers and customers.

For a prime example of our union members' commitment to safety, look no further than PG&E Gas Control Communications Specialists Rene Picazo, Jesse Garcia, Jenni Branson, Melanie Price and Jaime Price. This workgroup came up with a simple but powerful innovation to improve the gas service emergency response process — an innovation that could end up saving lives.

The communications specialist workgroup is relatively new to the IBEW

— they voted unanimously to join Local 1245 just three years ago. This small but mighty team deals with many types of gas emergencies, including dig-ins, fires and vehicle impacts. They serve as point persons between internal and external parties, including dispatch, gas service personnel and management until the emergency is controlled. Whenever a gas service rep (GSR) is dispatched to an emergency, the communications specialists need to convey accurate information about the event as quickly and thoroughly as possible. Previously, the standard practice was for them to be on the phone with the GSR, describing assets and critical structures in the field as the GSR traveled to the event. Upon arriving on site, the GSR would need to log in to their laptop to further assess

the situation — all while trying to interact with the customers, as well as police and fire personnel.

The communications specialists had

a better idea to improve this critical process. If they could email a plat map to the GSR's phone, the GSR could identify the location of all assets in the field, and better understand the situation and potential hazards before even arriving at the event. There would be no need to

Continued on page 15



PG&E's Gas Control Communications Specialists received the Sibley award for their forward-thinking approach to safety during gas emergencies.

# Hold the Pull Peer Safety Committee Hosts Annual Summit

On June 5, 2019 IBEW 1245's Hold the Pull (HTP) peer-to-peer electric safety committee hosted its annual Safety Summit at IBEW 1245's union hall in Vacaville, CA. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Local 1245's peer safety program, and 54 of our safety stewards from a wide array of properties, including six substation members who have recently been brought in to HTP, were in attendance to mark the occasion. They were joined by three members from Local 77 in Washington state, where Local 1245 has been working in partnership to create a similar safety program for that local.

HTP Committee Chair Mike Van Egmond and I kicked off the day-long summit with a safety briefing, followed by the traditional moment of silence recognizing the fallen brothers of IBEW 1245.

Dela Marth was the keynote speaker at the summit. Her gut-wrenching story about her son, Apprentice Lineman Brandon Orozco, who passed away in September 2013 at the age of 28, touched everyone in the room. Orozco died while working alone in a vault, and while nobody knows exactly what happened during the accident, the investigation found that he wasn't

wearing rubber gloves and he didn't have a tester with him at the time of the accident. Marth spoke about the personal impact that the accident has

**HOLD THE PULL!**



LINEMAN TO LINEMAN SAFETY CAMPAIGN IBEW LOCAL 1245

had on her as a mother, and how she struggled to stay on the right path as a person. She decided to turn her experience into something positive by sharing it with linemen everywhere, in an effort to try and help others avoid the experiences she endured. She has created a charitable organization called

Brother's Keeper, which works in conjunction with the National Sisterhood United for Journeyman Lineman to support the families of line workers after terrible tragedies. The proceeds from Marth's work and sales from her website go towards supporting families of fallen lineworkers, as well as lineworkers in the field. Items can be purchased at [brotherskeeperlinemanapparel.com/](http://brotherskeeperlinemanapparel.com/).

At the summit, attendees had the opportunity to discuss some of the major safety issues they are facing at work. Mutual aid in wildfire disaster areas was a topic that elicited much discussion. Hazards such as smoke inhalation, toxic debris, backfeed on downed lines, switching errors, and firefighters doing things they shouldn't when it comes to downed electrical lines were all raised. The group discussed changes

to construction standards as they relate to wildfire disasters. Associated hazards come into play when items such as tree wire, fault tamer cutout doors, and trip saver cutout doors are being installed in the field. Conductors such as tree wires are known to lay on the ground energized, creating hazards for the public and first responders.

Utilities are reporting mixed results regarding first responder training with local fire agencies and law enforcement. The training gives them a very basic understanding of electricity, while teaching them to identify potential hazards associated with downed electrical lines or damaged electrical equipment. Emphasis for first responders has been to keep themselves and the public out of harm's way until the power company can arrive to make the area safe.

Back-feed in association with solar installations was another topic of conversation. Companies seem to have different standards for how these installations are installed. Some of the varying standards may be attributed to local electrical code.

Safety issues were also identified with resetting CSP transformers. Everyone in the room recommended that if workers see any deformities in these transformers, do not reset, due to the hazards associated with a catastrophic failure. It is much safer and less costly to replace these transformers than it is for a catastrophic failure causing a spill, fire, or severe burns to yourself.

Hold the Pull would also like to thank everyone who participated in this year's event.

— Casey Kelley, IBEW 1245 Business Rep



Dela Marth, in white, talks with safety stewards at the Hold the Pull Summit.



## Sibley Award, from page 14

log in to their laptop, and it would also enable the GSR to discuss a situation over the phone with their supervisor and ensure they were looking at the same overview at the same time.

The new program started as a trial to see if it would streamline how communications specialists delivered crucial safety information to GSRs — and it was an overwhelming success. Now, almost immediately after any event is reported, the responding personnel receive a plat map in an email, and they are able to access it on their phones to see any hazards, plan isolation strategies and move the response along more quickly. The system has proven to be so effective that other gas companies are now trying to mirror the program.

On June 18, the communications specialists were honored for their innovation with PG&E's Shermer L. Sibley Safety and Health Award, which is the company's highest safety accolade. IBEW 1245 would like to thank the communications specialists for their forward-thinking approach to keeping their brothers and sisters safe in the field, and offer a warm congratulations on this well deserved award!



## Workplace Accident in Plumas County Claims the Life of IBEW Traveler

On Monday, July 22, an on-the-job accident in IBEW 1245's jurisdiction claimed the life of one IBEW member and injured another. The two men were outside line travelers from other IBEW Locals, working on a transmission line grid hardening project for Par Electric on PG&E property at the time of the accident. Preliminary reports indicate that they fell from an insulated work platform (baker board/diving board) on a transmission pole while working near Grays Flat in Plumas county.

IBEW Local 304 member Logan Grant Ruhnke, age 33, of Perry, Kansas, tragically lost his life in the accident. Ruhnke had been working as a lineman since 2006, and recently came to California to assist with grid hardening work. According to his obituary, "Logan was equipped with a dry sense of humor that endeared him to many. He loved riding and working on all things motorized, often-times pushing them to their top speed. He couldn't sit still, and he preferred to be outdoors. He was a very hard worker and had a wide range of practical skills. There wasn't much he couldn't build or fix. He was known for lending a helping hand."

IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell attended the funeral services for Brother Ruhnke, which were held on

Aug. 2 in Kansas. He was joined by a large number of young linemen, many of whom had traveled from California to attend the funeral.

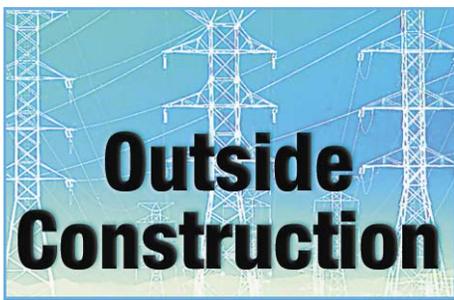
"Logan was a dedicated, hard-working IBEW brother who left this world far too soon, and our hearts go out to his family, friends and colleagues who are grappling with this tragedy," Dalzell said.

Brother Ruhnke leaves behind a loving family, including his wife Kayla and their one-year-old son, Easton.

For those who wish to support the family, donations can be made to Easton Ruhnke Education Fund, sent in care of Danner Funeral Home, 501 N Buckeye Ave, Abilene, KS 67410. A GoFundMe has also been set up for the Ruhnke family. Please contribute what you can at [gf.me/u/uifc68](http://gf.me/u/uifc68)

The accident is under investigation, and IBEW 1245 staffers are actively participating in the process. We will share more information on our website as it becomes available.





## California

The work picture has been very strong with not much end in sight. There are currently 250 electric contract crews on PG&E's property, and the talk is to ramp up to 500



Ralph Armstrong

crews towards the end of the year. One of the biggest issues that everyone is experiencing is the inability to get enough work packages out to the 250 crews that are currently on property. This created a small slowdown in the amount of dispatches and crew build-ups over the first couple of weeks in July, but thoughts are things will pick back up shortly, especially if they plan on achieving the 500 crews they state are needed for next year's work.

This has not slowed down the number of people showing up at the hall and signing the books. Over the last three months, we have seen a record number of linemen from all over the country traveling to California to chase this work. Mondays seem to be the busiest, with linemen who traveled through the weekend to get here lining up around the building, waiting to get in. There simply isn't enough room in our dispatch office to handle these crowds, so we have had to provide paperwork that is numbered on a first-come first-serve basis to these linemen, and we bring them into the dispatch office in groups of 5 to 10 at a time to sign and provide their documentation. This has also delayed a lot of the dispatching on those mornings as we try to make sure everyone who was there before 9am gets entered in the system and receives their safety orientation so they are eligible for calls on that day.

We've had roughly 4,500 people referred out of Local 1245 Outside Line dispatch since January 1 of this year. Our dispatchers have been extremely busy, and as a result, we've needed to make some adjustments to our dispatch hours of operation. Our dispatchers are now able to assist members from 7am to 9am. At 9am, the dispatch window will be closed and will not open again until one of the dispatchers completes their calls, or 1pm. This new policy is an attempt to have everyone who was there before 9 am, along with all the new manpower requests, entered into the system, in order to have the dispatchers making calls as close to 9am as possible, and have everything completed by 5pm.

All the required inspection work in the fire zone areas has been completed, and much of the work that is being done now is related to repairing what was found during the inspection. There are

crews doing fire hardening work as well, and a lot of other maintenance work outside of the fire areas. We don't see any slowdown in work anytime soon, with projections of 10-15 years' worth of work. Currently most crews are working 6-7 days a week, 12 hours a day, with a \$200 per diem. There are also an unprecedented number of contractors working in California, with many calling daily inquiring about becoming signatory.

The Paradise rebuilding efforts will soon be underway with current estimates of approximately 1.7 billion dollars to put everything underground. There are several contractors bidding this project, and we hope to find out soon who the successful bidder(s) are.

## Nevada

We also have lots of work currently taking place and lots of work out to bid in Nevada. It looks like some of the surrounding utilities are following suit and beginning to look at doing some fire hardening in the wake of the fires in PG&E's territory.

PAR has doc crews and linemen in North & South Lake Tahoe working for Liberty Utilities. PAR has recently completed their 4/25 KV cutover work in Reno.

Wasatch has 40+/- doc linemen working at various locations for NV Energy. Wasatch also has a doc crew in Yerington & Winnemucca. There are 10+/- sub techs working for NV Energy's substation group all over the system. Wasatch has completed the 23 miles of 120 KV rebuild from Lahontan to Interstate 80.

Titan has been working their UG job pulling and splicing Million MCM feeder for a new back tie in Lemmon valley which is moving along. Titan is also working on a transmission project in Reno out of the Mira Loma sub, approximately three miles, changing out wood poles for steel and reconductoring. This project is well under way and should wrap up by early August. Titan has also landed a job at the Pumpkin Hollow Mine in Yerington that should start soon.

TW Powerline has picked up a pole replacement job for Truckee Donner PUD and will have one crew working on that project.

Summit has picked up a small substation in Sparks for the Fulcrum biofuels plant and subsequent transmission line to feed it as well. The transmission line is only a real short section to tie into the existing line just outside of the plant.

Newman is near completion on two 4/25KV cutover projects in Reno, and Cache Valley has completed a project for Mt. Wheeler in Lund, NV.

## Safety

Everyone who has taken a call from Local 1245 over the last five years or so has had to sit through a short safety orientation that basically goes over their responsibilities and (besides the obvious) what can happen if they are terminated for a safety violation. We need to remind our members as well as all the travelers working here that it's their

responsibility to know the contract and safety rules at Local 1245. We continue to see a rash of safety violations that have ended up with IBEW members receiving 30 or more days off and required training before being able to take another referral. A restriction here is also a restriction at Local 47 as both local unions work closely and share this information. Please be safe, as we are our Brothers' Keepers.

## New "A" Membership

We currently have 35 members in different stages of the process, seeking to obtain "A" status as a Journeyman Lineman. This process has tripled due to PG&E filing for bankruptcy. Obtaining this status is very affordable, and with it comes a small pension, an additional life insurance policy and the ability to sign the books anywhere in the country if needed. With the increased number of members applying, please allow a little extra time for approval, and if someone has plans to leave a utility and only has a "BA" membership we encourage them to not wait until the last minute for this. Operator and Fab Tech applications are also being turned in at an increased rate due to all the work we currently have.

## Organizing

Organizing is ongoing, with several new contractors contacting us on how to become signatory. Below are some of the new contractors that were signed since January 1, 2019:

### CA Outside Line Construction Agreement:

- Shermco (Substation)
- Outsource Utility Contractor Corp. (OSL)
- C&C Utility Inc. (OSL)
- Mesa Pacific Power (OSL)
- Calburton Inc. (Gas)
- ICON Utility Services (OSL)
- TW Power Line Construction (OSL)

## JATC

When the CalNev JATC opened the application process in February, there were over 800 applicants that qualified for the next step. In August, we will have completed all the interviews and have everyone ranked. Shortly after that we will be looking to open up the application process again. The JATC has been running climbing schools almost weekly and has more apprentices in its program now than at any other time since it started.

With all the extra work in California and the demand for manpower it is always better to grow your own. Currently there are 556 outside line apprentices registered in our JATC program with 62 traveling apprentices working in our jurisdiction. We are on pace to have close to 700 apprentices in the program by the end of 2019.

As of the end of July:

- 214 Apprentices are working out of local 1245
- 313 are working out of 47
- 18 are working out of 396
- 0 are unemployed
- 7 are not available to work for various reasons
- 4 are on a leave

We have graduated 51 apprentices to

journeyman lineman this year, and we have indentured 196 outside line apprentices this year.

## New Facility Update

In our last report, we mentioned that the current facility in Southern California is running at capacity and the trustees have been looking for land in Northern California. It was also reported that we had 8.3 acres in Vacaville in contract for a northern facility. During the 90-day disclosure period, we found some environmental issues that were of a concern and could have delayed the construction of the facility for more than a year. It was decided to move on from that property and see what else we could find. Subsequently, we found a facility in Woodland that would have worked perfectly, and we were negotiating with the owners. We had reached the point where everything was addressed, and at the 11th hour they decided to pull the property off the market. We are still working with the owners, but looking again. We also know that we need something now to handle the increased number of apprentices and work in Northern California. We are currently working on leasing a facility in Sacramento that can be used all week if needed until we can lock down the land we need to build a new one.

The JATC is in need of instructors in Northern California and will be looking to hire a full-time instructor up north in the near future. If you are interested in teaching, please contact the CalNev JATC.

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

## Know Your Contract

Every month we run into many basic contract issues with simple solutions that members can find for themselves by looking into the agreement. Then there are times when the answer is not that simple, and additional help is needed. In both cases, if a member or crew is not aware of or educated in the language in the agreement, conditions are broken down and, in many cases, members find themselves being shorted on pay. With the amount of work we have going and the large number of travelers, it is important that everyone is familiar with the agreement, so we are able to keep what has been negotiated in place. We are going to attempt to take sections from our contract — starting with ones we see coming up most often in the field — and try to cover them here.

With all the overhead distribution work going on in the jurisdiction, it is important for everyone to know the requirements around manning crews for different types of work. This information can be found in Article VI of the agreement — specifically 6.9, Manning Line Crews. The agreement is clear, especially while performing energized work on lines and equipment of 600 volts and more, what the crew make-up should be under (b) below. This seems to be the section that gets questioned a lot, especially from workers that are new to the area.

## Manning Line Crews

6.9

- (a) The erection of poles by hand and the stringing of all wire shall be done by regularly constituted line crews consisting of Foreman, Linemen, Groundmen, or Apprentice Linemen. Tamping and Line crews shall consist of Foreman, Lineman, Groundmen or Apprentice Linemen. In such crews the majority of men shall be Linemen, Foreman included.
- (b) When energized work on lines or equipment of 600 volts or more is performed except as noted in paragraph (c) below, the crew shall consist of at least three (3) Journeyman Linemen and one (1) Groundman, Foreman included, or two (2) Journeyman Lineman, one (1) Hot Apprentice, and one (1) Groundman, Foreman included. A Cold Apprentice may be substituted for a Groundman.
- (c) On G.O. 95 maintenance work, radio interference, maintenance work or other light maintenance work, limited to greasing insulators, tightening of hardware, guy replacement, a three (3) man crew consisting of three (3) Journeyman Linemen (Foreman included) or two (2) Journeyman Lineman (Foreman included) and one (1) Hot Apprentice.
- (d) A service crew shall consist of two (2) Journeyman Lineman or one (1) Journeyman Lineman and one (1) Apprentice. A Journeyman Lineman shall be designated as a Working Foreman on each service crew.

## Dispatch

All 1245 OSL members are encouraged to sign up and register your own personal account through the Local 1245 website. Once registered, you will be able to check your books status, make changes to personal information, pay union dues and even check on available jobs without having to call the dispatch office for this information. This is a very useful tool for our OSL members.

Please call the hotline after hours for daily counts related to actual numbers on the books and for details on all available calls.

### *Dispatch Call Counts through the end of June*

As of the end of June, local 1245's Dispatch office had dispatched 4,370 calls. To put this in perspective of the increased load that our dispatchers are working under, over all 12 months of 2018, there were 3,883 dispatches — which was a record at the time.

The Lineman classification is by far the classification that has been dispatched the most, with a total of 2,961 of those nearly 4,400 calls.

The dispatch office is very busy, so please refrain from calling it during dispatch hours.

# Giving Verizon a Boost in South Lake Tahoe



Bob Kellogg and Justin Jacobson working together in the bucket.

Last year, the South Lake Tahoe Planning Commission approved a proposal to improve Verizon cell service in the area by attaching a series of signal boosters to the tops of certain utility poles. In order to make this happen, the poles, which belong to Liberty Utilities, would need to be extended above the 14.4 KV line so the new antennas could be installed on the pole tops. Liberty, an IBEW 1245-represented utility, contracted with PAR Electric, a 1245 signatory contractor, to conduct all the work above the primary, including the new taller pole construction as well as the installation of the antennas.

The *Utility Reporter* caught up with a five-man doc line crew from PAR as they worked on one of these 12 projects, located near the intersection of O'Malley and Carson in South Lake Tahoe.

"Right now, we're mainly going through changing out poles and changing out transformers, and then we'll come back and hang antennas and do the testing with the Verizon contractors. Everything's going pretty well so far," explained PAR General Foreman Andy Paulson, an 18-year IBEW member. "The only thing that's unusual is there are four different Verizon [telecommunications] contractors that we're working for. So everybody's under Verizon, but they have four different contractors and all four of them are different — some of them are really good at what they're doing, and some of them aren't. So that's the only difficulty."

The 1245 crew worked together seamlessly to complete a pole change-out. Justin Smith and Justin Washabaugh dug the hole and prepped the pole, and

Bob Kellogg and Justin Jacobson worked from the bucket. Paulson and Smily Stahl from Liberty oversaw the work to ensure it all went smoothly.

Paulson credits IBEW 1245 with the fact that he gets to work alongside some of the most skilled linemen in the country.

"The union's provided myself and all my union brothers with a great living,

it's provided really well for my family. I feel like the brotherhood is really strong, it keeps us really all on the same page as far as working safe and wanting to work safe," he said. "There's a lot of us that are really in-tune and want to keep the union strong and to keep it what it is, to keep good guys in here."

*Casey Kelley contributed to this report.*



Linemen Justin Smith, (left) and Justin Washabaugh

Photos by John Storey



Get the latest news at

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



IBEW 1245 members from the line department, substation, Fresh Pond, and warehouse participated in the first SMUD U-N-ME session at the union hall in Vacaville, Calif. on May 16th.

## IBEW 1245 Expands U-N-ME Program to SMUD

Four years ago, IBEW 1245 launched an innovative and unique program designed to welcome newer members into the union and help them learn more about 1245's history, mission, goals, structure, leadership, collective bargaining agreements, politics and more. The one-day program, known as U-N-ME, was originally developed for new members at PG&E, but due to its overwhelming popularity, it quickly expanded to PG&E members with a bit more seniority. Now, U-N-ME is reaching members working for other employers as well — beginning with Local 1245's largest public sector employer, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD).

IBEW 1245 staff organizers worked closely with SMUD Business Representative Lou Mennel to create an organizing committee comprised of IBEW 1245 members from SMUD who shaped the U-N-ME program and customized it to SMUD's culture. Kim Camatti, a veteran Volunteer Organizing Committee (VOC) leader, led the group. Camatti was pivotal in developing the 12-month "I'm In" campaign that led to 90% of SMUD members re-signing as voluntary dues paying members in anticipation of the US Supreme Court *Janus* decision (learn more about the successful effort at [ibew1245.com/2018/08/16/life-after-janus/](http://ibew1245.com/2018/08/16/life-after-janus/)). Kim was joined by veteran VOC member and lineman Justin Hirschi, as



SMUD VOC Leader Kim Camatti

well as co-workers Bill Matthews and Sean Stevens, to craft the day-long curriculum that would provide the attendees with valuable information, understanding and connection to the union.

"We have so many employees at SMUD who have never even been to our union hall. I remember the nostalgic feeling I had the first time I came here to the hall, looking at all the history on the walls ... I just want to share that," said Camatti. "And I also want to help other members really understand what's in our contract and how it got there, so they can have that same 'A-ha!' moment I had. We're starting with new members, but our goal is to eventually have all the members at SMUD come through a U-N-ME session."

The inaugural SMUD U-N-ME session took place in early May at the IBEW 1245 hall in Vacaville. The day kicked off with a brief ice-breaker, where members in attendance were asked to think of one word that describes the union. Brotherhood, Solidarity, Pride, Fairness, Representation and Strength were among the descriptive terms thrown out, and it was clear that despite being new to the union, the group already had a strong affinity for 1245 — and it would only grow stronger as the day progressed.

After the ice-breaker, attendees watched a short video about IBEW 1245's recent victories and current battles, followed by an in-depth presentation on the history of 1245 at SMUD, led by Camatti and SMUD retiree Don Krueter, whose institutional knowledge of SMUD's history is incomparable. The information was then reinforced with a fun game of "1245 SMUD Bingo" and the winners scored some nifty union swag prizes.

Before lunch, IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell stopped in to share a few personal anecdotes about some of the interesting arbitrations he worked on at SMUD as Local 1245's in-house attorney for many decades, and tied these historic wins in to the bargaining and organizing power that Local 1245 members have continued to amass

over the years.

"Building worker power has been the work of my life, and I can't imagine doing anything else besides watching workers exercise that power," Dalzell told the group in attendance. "We've got a good contract at SMUD because of the power we've built there, and you all are the source of that power. To see you coming in to spend the day here at the union hall is just great, and the work you do makes us proud!"

Business Rep Lou Mennel proceeded to lead the new members on a deep dive into their collective bargaining agreement (or MOU as it's often referred to in

the public sector). They discovered aspects of the contract that they may never had known about otherwise, and they learned how to look up specific contractual issues should they arise at work. Mennel also explained exactly how contract negotiations work at SMUD, from the solicitation of bargaining proposals from the membership, to the back-and-forth exchanges with the employer, to the end result that enshrines the members' workplace rights, wages, benefits and critical protections.

The members also received a comprehensive break-down on how their dues are spent, and they clearly appreciated the union's transparency on this matter. The conversation about dues segued into a discussion on politics, so the



Organizer Eileen Purcell



new members could understand that the union bases its political endorsements exclusively on where the given candidate stands on utility and related labor issues, and social issues and party affiliation are not taken into account at all during the process.

Additionally, the organizers presented the attendees with a detailed overview of the union's structure, including its shop steward, organizing steward and safety steward programs, as well as the other programs and resources that are available to members through the union. IBEW 1245 Hold the Pull Peer-to-Peer Safety Committee member Fred

About (NV Energy) led a conversation about safety and the importance of being our brothers' (and sisters') keepers on the job.

As the old saying goes, the best laid plans always seem to go astray, and thanks to a late spring storm and resulting outages in the SMUD service area, a number of members who planned to attend, including Justin Hirschi, one of the VOC leaders who helped craft the program, ended up being called in to work to restore power. But the ten members who were able to come to U-N-ME embraced the experience fully and found it engaging and enlightening.



Hold the Pull Committee Member Fred About



1245 SMUD Bingo

"I think it's pretty invaluable to know what the union stands for, because there's a lot of questions, and a lot of misconceptions about unions ... This definitely makes me feel more empowered because I have more knowledge about the union," said SMUD Utility Worker and U-N-ME attendee Jose Medina, noting that he found the session on dues to be the most impactful. "I'm sure people can wonder where the [dues] money goes to, but when you actually come here and see where it goes, it just makes you want to be more involved."

The attendees weren't the only ones

who appreciated the experience. The union activists and staffers also valued the opportunity to bring this kind of knowledge to the newer members.

"This was one of the most rewarding events that I have ever been a part of as a business rep for 1245," said Mennel, the SMUD business rep. "The members spent the day learning about their union, and I also got to spend more time than usual with the membership which will shape my relationships with them moving forward."

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director

Photos by John Storey



Business Rep Lou Mennel

## Members Approve Successor MOU at City of Roseville

After overwhelmingly rejecting the City's Last, Best and Final offer, the IBEW 1245 members at the City of Roseville have approved a new three-year successor MOU with an 83% yes vote. The City Council subsequently approved the new agreement.

The successor MOU includes a 2% salary increase (or market adjustment if the market adjustment survey is higher than 2%), effective April 27, 2019, and additional market adjustment wage increases in May of 2020 and May of 2021. The bargaining committee also negotiated increases for certain certifications, including the Environmental Utilities max certification, which was increased to 5%, and DOT Tanker endorsement and USA Locate certifications will both get 1%. Members will now receive dou-

ble-time pay when working outside of shift between 8:00pm and 6:00am, and non-shift classifications will get double-time when working on a holiday. Additionally, all mutual aid assignments will be paid at double-time rates.

The MOU also includes annual increases to the cafeteria flex plan, and an additional hour to the rest period. In exchange for the Columbus Day holiday, the committee negotiated eight hours as a floating holiday. Effective January 1 2020, the CTO max accumulation will be 160 hours.

The bargaining committee consisted of Tim Abbott, Mike Barton, Jimmy Bell, Gary Kidder, Shawn Murphy, and myself.

— Charley Souders, IBEW 1245 Business Rep



Retiree Don Kreuter

## New Agreement Ratified at Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District 1

The IBEW Local 1245 membership at the Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District 1 unanimously ratified a four-year successor agreement with the District, which was subsequently approved and adopted by the District in mid-May. The agreement will be in effect from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2023, and includes annual wage increases based on CPI (calculated using the SFO/Hayward/San Jose index), with a maximum of 3% in each year, potentially netting 12% over the term of the agreement. The members also secured an additional \$100.00 to the District's medical contribution cap, as

well as a \$275.00 boot/clothing credit that can roll over for three years and does not affect FR clothing or other PPE articles.

Overall, the bargaining process itself was positive and the new agreement contains no concessions. The Local 1245 Bargaining Committee consisted of Power Distribution Journeyman Jon Aronson, Construction Crew Superintendent Brian Speelman and myself. We would also like to thank Apprentice Journeyman Power Distribution James "JJ" Logan for serving as the judge for the ratification vote.

— JV Macor, IBEW 1245 Business Rep



Business Manager Tom Dalzell

Utility Reporter



Bobo shows off his first model line truck, which he hand crafted as a young boy.



Some of the meters in Bobo's collection

Photos by John Storey

In 1956, when Vicente “Bobo” Piuela was nine years old, he had his first exposure to utility linework. He was out on a walk with his mother, Lolita, in Watsonville when he walked right into a down guy wire. “Watch where you are going,” his mom told him, but Bobo’s mind was focused on the wires, and the men who were working on them. He was initially mad at the pole, and yet completely fascinated by what it was holding up. He started to wonder about the wires and how they worked. Were they telephone lines, or electric? And what about the insulators? What are they? He tried to ask the linemen, who quickly warned young Bobo not to touch them, as they’re intended to protect him from electric shock.

Bobo’s interest in linework quickly transformed into a passion. His dream was to one day become a lineman himself. But unfortunately, that would never happen — because Bobo was deaf from childhood, and as his friend Lanny Martin once explained to him, linework is just too dangerous for a deaf person, because he wouldn’t be able to hear a warning if there was a problem.

But that didn’t put a damper on Bobo’s passion. He was an avid learner and collector, and when a schoolmate’s dad, who worked for the telephone company in Monterey, brought Bobo some stuff from work, he was absolutely ecstatic.

In 1959, after spending some time at a small deaf school in Watsonville, Bobo enrolled in the California School for the Deaf, which at that time was in Berkeley. While living in Berkeley, he taught himself how to climb, first by practicing on trees, and then on utility poles — even swapping out secondary insulators at night. No one noticed.

He began taking telephones apart so he could figure out to put them back together. His friend’s dad would explain some of the aspects of how the equipment worked, and the more Bobo learned, the more he wanted to learn. He voraciously studied every book and manual that he could get his hands on. The specific terminology was hard for him, but he quickly learned how to identify the marks on the poles — “high

# MEET BOBO

## The Greatest Lineman That Never Was

voltage” meant danger, “electric” meant don’t touch, “telephone” was no danger. He even tested some low voltage shocks on himself with a telephone, just to see what electricity felt like.

Around that time, Bobo also began making models of PG&E line trucks. He was just 13 when he built his first model truck — self-taught, of course, as was his *modus operandi*. He used a photo for reference and scale, and would proceed with trial and error until he got it exactly right. He was told that his models are so accurate that they could be used in the classroom as teaching tools.

In 1967, he graduated from the school for the deaf and returned to his home on the Central Coast. There, he spent hours just watching the linemen in his community as they worked. They often had to tell him to step back, which he did... but would inch closer again, always trying to get a better look.

He recalls a time when he got to see a transformer change-out on 7th St. in his town of San Juan Bautista. The equipment was heavy, and it was a hard, slow job. But what struck Bobo was the way the crew would use hot sticks — and the moment when he saw the sparks.

He followed the crew from job to job, learning the difference between 4kv, 12kv and 21kv. The linemen grew fond of young Bobo, and as a token of affection, they’d often give him old insulators. At that time, they were doing a lot of undergrounding — and as a result, Bobo would get a lot of insulators. Those insulators, along with his models, his books, and the items he got from the phone company, were the start of his one-of-a-kind utility memorabilia collection. That collection would continue to grow for the next 50-plus years, gradually transforming his home into something that more closely resembled a museum.

When he was in his early 20s, Bobo constructed his most outstanding model — a full mock-up of a nearby substation, complete with switches that work mechanically. It was challenging for him, and he used a reference book to make sure the model was true-to-life. He was living with his father in Bakersfield at the time, and spent a full six months working on the model. Once it was finally complete, it was so enormous that he struggled to get it through the door of his house in San Juan! He showed it at a number of fairs, and even

took a first-place prize at the San Benito County fair.

In his later years, he became a well-known face around insulator trade shows. He would earn money by recycling out-of-service parts, transforming them into works of art, and selling his unique wares. Between 1994 and 2016, Bobo sold 99 meter lamps and eight pole models with three-pot bank structure. He also made and sold 14 doll houses. He spent most of his earnings at shows and flea markets, where he picked up more and more items for his collection. Over the years, he’s collected about 400 insulators, mostly from Edison. He also has 344 meters, and a three-dial A Base.

“It’s good to have a hobby. You don’t get in trouble,” he told me (via sign language interpreter) when I visited his home to view his collection in March of this year. I was struck by his positivity, his disarming grin, and his sheer genius — he truly knows more about utility work than most career linemen. And of course, I was blown away by his collection of memorabilia, the astonishing models he crafts by hand, his artwork, and the unique way that he has repurposed decommissioned utility equipment to give it new life.

Even though Bobo never got a chance to work in the utility industry, he’s cultivated so much knowledge and pride for the craft, and I wanted to do something special for him. So this spring, at the annual IBEW 1245 Service Awards in Monterey, I made Bobo an honorary member of IBEW 1245. I presented him with his very own union card, and an enlarged copy of a drawing of a lineman. This isn’t something I would do for just anyone — but Bobo isn’t just anyone. He’s a brilliant, remarkable mind, a highly skilled craftsman, and a kind-hearted individual who embodies all the traits we celebrate at IBEW 1245. He carries his union ticket around in his wallet and proudly shows it off to all of his lineman friends when he sees them around town.

I’m honored to call Bobo a brother. He’s an inspiration to us all.

— Tom Dalzell, IBEW 1245  
Business Manager



Bobo's collection of lineman memorabilia

“ I first met Bobo back in 1985 or 1986. At that time, I was a new foreman, and in accordance with General Orders 95 and 128, PG&E would send us out for compliance inspections along with a company auditor after new jobs were completed. On one of those inspections in Hollister, something caught my attention that would be the start of a wonderful friendship.

In the yard, there was a model of a utility pole inside a beautiful glass display case that struck me. The detail was incredible, and I could tell it was handmade. We had work to do, but the auditor told me he knew who made the model from his previous visits to the PG&E system, and assured me he would take me to meet him.

That night, we traveled to meet Bobo in nearby San Juan Bautista. When we got to his house, I felt like a kid in a candy store. I was blown away by all of the memorabilia he had collected. Bobo also had his creativity on display: he was making lamps out of old utility meters with hard hats for shades.

I told Bobo I could get him some more meters, and I started bringing him old equipment. At that time, we would take in meters as people were upgrading their systems. When my career started in San Francisco in the early 1970s, there was still old utility equipment all over the city from the 1920s, 30s and 40s. We were going to throw those old meters and tools away, so I would sign these things out and take



Bobo and Lindsey bonded over a shared love of model trains and linework.



Bobo makes and sells lamps out of old meters and hard hats.

them to Bobo by the bus load.

Bobo has been deaf since childhood. His mother, Lolita, told me that one day, while out for a ride with his dad, Bobo started making a big commotion in the back seat, which was unusual for him. He was fixated on something. Bobo's dad looked out the window and saw workers going up a utility pole. He pulled the car over and learned it was a PG&E crew doing line work. He asked the foreman if he and Bobo could come back the next day to watch the crew work. They did, and Bobo brought his drawing easel. The pictures Bobo drew that day won a gold medal at the California State Fair.

Despite Bobo's hearing impairment, communication has never been an issue between us. We had an instant connection over his utility memorabilia, and also over his love of old toy trains, an interest of mine as well. Our friendship blossomed from there.

Over the years, my wife and I would visit Bobo every two or three months and also enjoyed getting to know Lolita, who was heavily involved in the community. One of my most prized possessions is a gift from Bobo: one of his meter lamps with a hard hat shade.

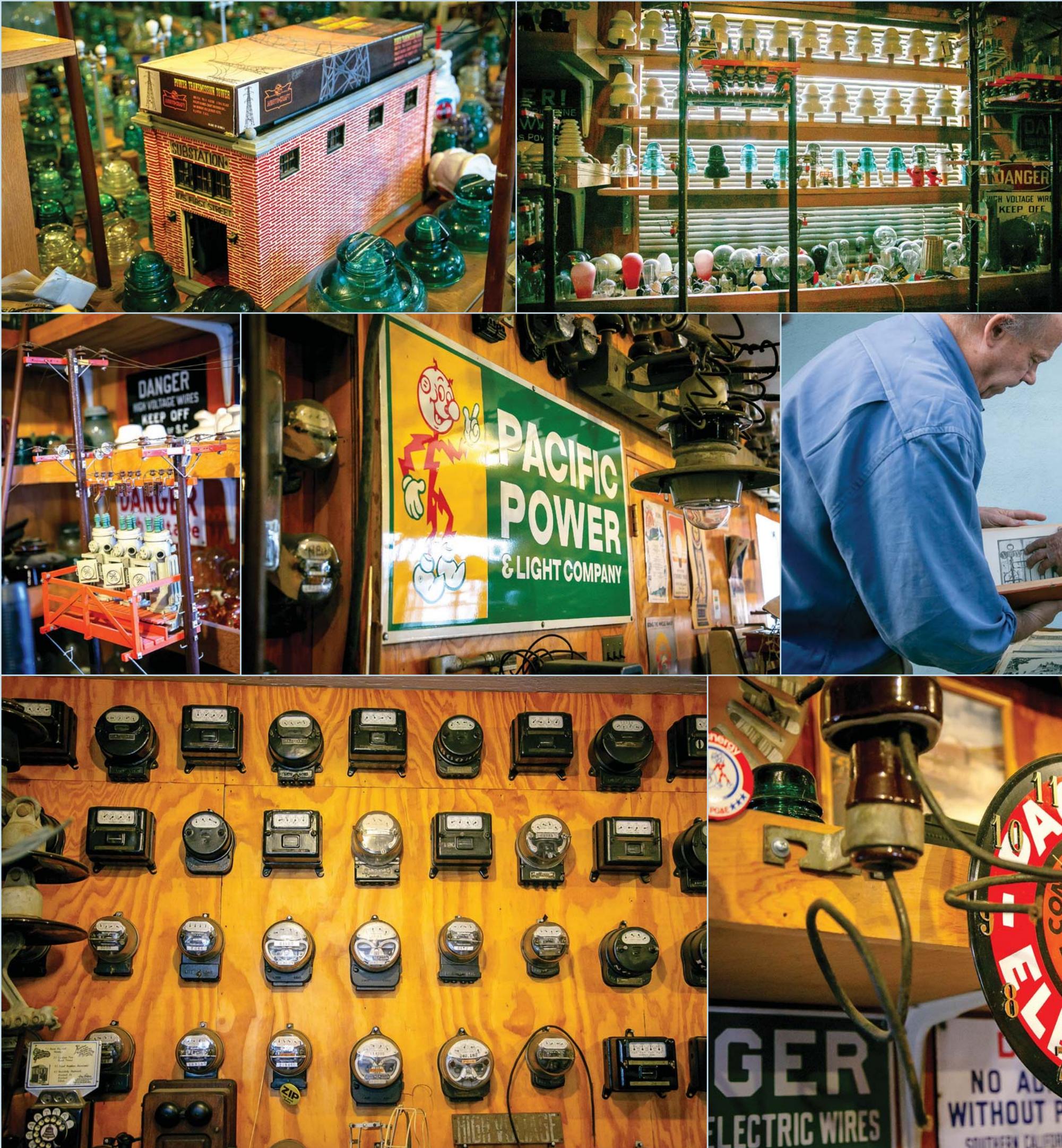
— George Lindsey, 42-year IBEW 1245 member and PG&E Electric Crew Foreman

*continued on next page*

“ I met Bobo somewhere around late 2006 or early 2007. I was an apprentice lineman, renting a town house that came with a gardener as part of the rent. This was before PG&E issued uniforms, so I didn't wear clothes that totally gave away that I was a PG&E guy. I had seen Bobo around the neighborhood, but didn't get a chance to talk to him for the first month or two. Then one night, as I was returning home from work, Bobo was sitting on his truck tailgate waiting for me. He motioned for me to come over to the backyard, and pointed at my wooden pin cross arm horseshoe pits. He began to write down words on his note pad, and it was at that moment when I realized he was deaf. But I couldn't believe what he was writing down — he knew everything there was to know about that cross arm! It was a wooden pin, single light cross arm that was made before 1960. This was the start of our friendship, and from that day forward, Bobo and I have been close friends, like

family.

During the next two years, we had many days writing back and forth on note pads. I remember one night when Bobo showed up late to mow the yard, and he looked through the window and saw my book of standards on the table. It was the large blue overhead book, and Bobo knew right away that I must be studying, because I didn't come outside to meet him. He saw the pages that I was studying (it was the section on transformer connections, which I needed to learn for my upcoming wage progression test) and took off. I didn't know what was about to happen, but out of nowhere Bobo showed back up with wooden pole models that he had built, complete with amazingly accurate transformers on them. They were perfect in size, shape, color, and even were wired correctly on both the high side and low side. I was blown away by his smarts, seeing as how he had never even taken lineman classes,



had never worked as a lineman – yet somehow knew how to wire a transformer as if he'd spent years on the job. At that point, I realized just how special and rare Bobo is. For fun, I copied extra study guides from class and would give them to Bobo as “homework” – but really, he was the one teaching me. Bobo would finish the assignments so fast, and add so much detail — like voltage, delta or wye connections — in to the answers, that he was actually helping me understand transformers from a different angle.

Because of Bobo's deafness, no one would hire him to do such a dangerous job, but if given a chance, I know he could have done the job at a very high level. Bobo is a good climber – he told me that back in the day, he would climb up to secondary

level and look around, and even change out insulators, swapping new ones for old ones that he liked or didn't already have.

That brings me to his collection. Bobo not only has the knowledge and passion, he also has the obsession with the history of the trade, just like so many of us linemen. Whether it be books, models, or old insulators, Bobo collected them all. If you didn't personally know Bobo's history and were to sit down with him, you would leave the conversation thinking you were just talking with an old lineman.

— Ryan Skelton, IBEW 1245 Business Rep and former PG&E Journeyman Lineman

Photos by John Storey



Skelton and Bobo share a fist-bump.



Tom Dalzell presented Bobo with a certificate, artwork and IBEW 1245 membership card at the IBEW 1245 Monterey Pin Dinner on March 29.

## Dalzell Presents IBEW 1245 Founder's Cufflinks to Nevada Retiree Leader

When IBEW 1245 founder Ron Weakley passed away several years ago, he left a box of his cufflinks to 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. At the quarterly Advisory Council meeting in Reno, Dalzell bequeathed a set of Weakley's cufflinks to Ron Borst, president of 1245's Reno-Sparks Retirees Club and a longtime 1245 activist who helped launch Local 1245's organizing renaissance.

"Around 10 years ago, Nevada Energy, which had traditionally had a good collaborative relationship with 1245, had a rogue CEO named Michael Yackira, who went to extreme lengths to strip away our retirees' medical benefits that they had earned over the years," Dalzell told the Advisory Council. "But the retirees rose up in an amazing way, and we launched a campaign against Nevada Energy to win it back,



all with the leadership of these retirees. Two things happened as a result of this campaign — one is we won. And the other thing that happened was a radical transformation of IBEW 1245."

Dalzell went on to explain how the retirees, including Borst and several others in attendance, inspired 1245's ground-breaking organizing steward program, which has proven to be remarkably successful and has transformed the union into the organizing, legislative and political powerhouse that it is today. He then brought Borst up, flanked by his fellow NV Energy retirees, including his wife Vicki, and presented him with the cufflinks, along with a 50-year pin.

Borst graciously accepted the thoughtful gift, but his wife had a surprise in store for Dalzell.

"Ron and I are very honored with the

## ADVISORY COUNCIL



Ron Borst, president of 1245's Reno-Sparks Retirees Club dons Weakley's cufflinks.

presentation of the memorabilia of Ron Weakley for Ron's 50th anniversary of being in IBEW," she told Dalzell and the rest of the union's leadership. "Ron asked me to inform you that yes, he will wear the cufflinks, but in the very distant future, he plans to make a slate case for the set and present them back to the hall to be displayed."

Borst in turn gifted Dalzell with an

IBEW coin, which were commonly carried by IBEW members back in the days when Borst worked at the utility. He had collected several such coins to incorporate into the hand-crafted IBEW coffee table that he created and gifted to the union several years ago (which can be seen and enjoyed in the lobby of Weakley Hall), and he found it fitting to pass along the extra coin to Dalzell.



Borst, flanked by his fellow NV Energy retirees, presents an IBEW coin to Dalzell.



Organizing Stewards (from left) Bridgette Thomas, Donny Davis, Vanessa Mejia and Alvin Dayoan with Business Manager Tom Dalzell

## Local 1245 Leadership Applauds Organizing Stewards Who Helped Elect Dahle to California Senate

This spring, IBEW 1245's organizing stewards helped propel our ally, Republican Lawmaker Brian Dahle, to victory in a California State Senate Special Election (see full story on page 12). At the Advisory Council meeting in Reno, Business Manager Tom Dalzell recognized the extraordinary work of the six organizing stewards who were

dispatched to work on the campaign for nearly three weeks, and their fellow stewards who volunteered their evening and weekend time to help get out the vote for Dahle.

"Brian Dahle called me the day after the election and said, 'I'd never seen anything like this! I walked into the Central Labor Council and saw 20 people

making calls for me, and there were people going door-to-door for me — I don't even know them, and they're not being paid!" Dalzell recounted, emphasizing how awe-inspiring their efforts were to the GOP candidate who had never witnessed a volunteer campaign mobilization of this nature before.

Dalzell went on to explain how building these types of across-the-aisle relationships with GOP lawmakers proves to be invaluable when the union is pushing for critical legislation in Sacramento.

"When we have a politician who will support our members on our issues, we don't care if there's a D after their name or an R after their name," Dalzell said. "Dahle took that message of support from Local 1245 and its members and brought it back to the Republican caucus. The timing was wonderful because we were in the middle of the legislative battle for the wildfire bill, and on the floor of the State Senate, he spoke of the men and women of Local 1245, and expressed his appreciation for the work our members do."

The organizing stewards shared some of their sentiments about the experience with the Advisory Council as well.

"One of the biggest highlights of this campaign was the phone-banking that Tom had mentioned. We had over 20+ organizing steward volunteers, and friends and family as well, who came to get the vote out for Brian," said Lead Organizing Steward Alvin Dayoan. "He and his staffers were also there, along with a few other assemblymen, like Jim Cooper from Elk Grove. It was a really, really big thing."

"I have worked on other campaigns out of state and also locally, but this one was a really big change for me, to be supporting a Republican candidate

... but it was really good. I really enjoyed the campaign," Organizing Steward Bridgette Thomas told the Advisory Council.

It was definitely a great experience," echoed Organizing Steward Donny Davis. "I look forward to fighting the good fight moving forward ... thank you guys for supporting us and allowing us to help Brian win, even though he was expected to lose!"



Steen's winning photo

## Troy Steen Wins Quarterly Photo Contest

Three-year IBEW 1245 member Troy Steen has won the IBEW 1245 quarterly photo contest. His winning photo, shown here, depicts fellow IBEW 1245 member Walter Wroten, a climber working for Davey Tree, on a line clearance tree trimming job near Colfax, CA. Steen captured the photo from a 100ft bucket truck.

Brother Steen was unable to accept his prize in person, but his winning image was recognized during the July Advisory Council meeting in Reno, and he received his \$500 prize check by mail.

Submissions are now being accepted for our next quarterly contest. All active 1245 members in good standing are

eligible to enter. Photo entries should be original, job-related and in a high-resolution format. Photos must be submitted by the member who captured the image.

Send entries to RGB1@IBEW1245.com, and be sure to include your full name and member number or date of birth to confirm eligibility.



IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell displayed Steen's winning photo at the July Advisory Council meeting in Reno.



IBEW 1245's newly elected Executive Board was sworn in on July 22 in Reno. Back row, from left: Southern Area Board Member Willy Garris, Central Area Board Member Gary Maschio, PG&E General Construction At-Large Board Member Stan Zamora, Line Clearance Tree Trimmers and Outside Construction Board member Scott Hudelson, Treasurer Tom Cornell. Front row, from left: Business Manager Tom Daltzell, Vice President James "Hammer" Hayes, President Cecelia De La Torre, North Area Board Member Steve Segale, Recording Secretary Rachel Ramirez.

## Local 1245 Congratulates 22-Year Executive Board Member Anna Bayless Martinez on Her Retirement

After 39 years as a member of IBEW 1245, including a whopping 22 years serving on its Executive Board, Anna Bayless Martinez has retired from her role as one of 1245's most dedicated union leaders.

At the Advisory Council meeting in Reno, Martinez' longtime friend and colleague, Dorothy Fortier, presented Martinez with a commemorative plaque to honor her for her many years of service to the union.

"In 22 years, I've worked under three business managers. Tom is one, Perry Zimmerman was one, and Jack McNally — and there were struggles under all of them," Martinez recalled, underscoring the challenges that union leaders face in representing their members. "With this leadership, I know you're going to go far and take care of those struggles we're going to be finding in the future."

Martinez took a moment to thank the many inspirational women who mentored her and supported her over the decades, including Fortier, as well as the late Debbie Mazzanti, and union staffers Gail Varner, Tonya Alston and Karen Kiley.

"I just want you all to know that I appreciate you and I love you all," she added.

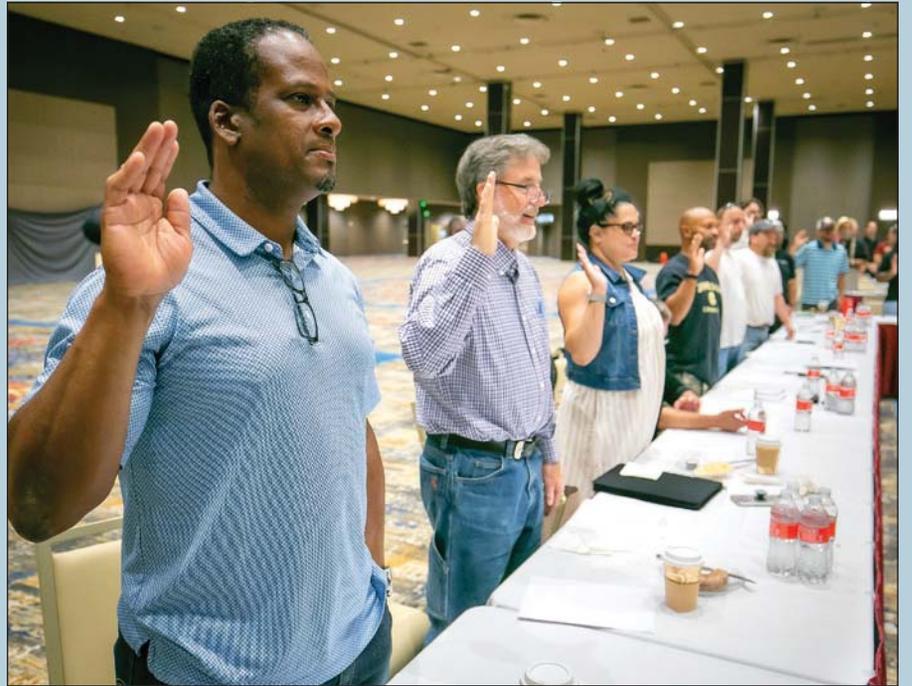


Anna Bayless Martinez



From left: Dorothy Fortier, Anna Bayless Martinez, 1245 President Cecelia De La Torre and Recording Secretary Rachel Ramirez

## New Advisory Council Members Sworn In





## New Contractors, Production Pressure, Bankruptcy and Bargaining

It has been a very hectic year for everyone in this work group. 2018 ended with a lot of uncertainties and 2019 began with a lot of changes. Between new contractors, a lot of movement with members changing companies and/or locations, and the PG&E bankruptcy, there has been no shortage of issues, with new ones cropping up daily.

Some of these things may be settling down a bit, however there is still a lot to do. 2019 is the final year of our collective bargaining agreement, and we now have several new contractors added to the mix. During the last round of negotiations, we represented members from 15 different contractors, and as of July 1, 2019 we have added another 19 new contractors to this list (see below). We expect several more to be added, as the Project Labor Agreements we had in place at the end of 2018 expired, and these contractors who were covered under that PLA and want to continue to work here will have to come in to the Master Agreement. This will add a whole other level to negotiations this year, which we expect to begin towards the end of August or early September.

Between the volume of work, the number of man-hours, and the nature of the industry that is a combination of two very high-risk types of work — logging and high voltage work — the safety of our members is a big concern. There are a lot of new contractors, a lot of production pressure, and as previously mentioned, a lot weighing on our members' minds. We urge everyone to remain vigilant and don't compromise yours or your co-worker's safety for anything.

### Newly Organized Tree Companies

The following companies have signed the routine LCTT agreement since February 2019. Many had worked under the PLA in 2018, but have now transitioned to the full Master Agreement.

- AAA Tree Service
- ABC Landscaping & Excavation, Inc.
- Arborworks, Inc.
- Caltrees Inc.
- Carlos Tree Service
- CJ Tree Care, Inc.
- Core Tree Care, Inc.
- Evergreen Arborists, Inc. – Pro Forest Division
- Family Tree
- FSEI
- Kinsborough Atlas Tree Surgery Inc.
- Pride Contracting Inc.
- R&B Quality Tree Care, Inc.
- Rancho Tree Service
- Rapid Response Force LLC
- Rolling Green, Inc.
- Southern Disaster Recovery, LLC
- Wilhelm, Inc.

We recently filed grievances because some of these companies are violating Utility Reporter

the agreement by not signing up their employees or paying and reporting the monthly fringe benefits (medical, pension, etc) and dues. With all the movement and changes in this workgroup, some of this was difficult to track. Things have settled down and we have a better tracking mechanism in place that will allow us to do a better job of holding the employers accountable. With this new information, we expect to file more in the next few weeks.

Reports below are from the Business Representatives for each area.

### Northern Area

Things are still very busy in the Northern Area. The work in Paradise following the Camp Fire is finally wrapping up. There are still a few crews up there doing the final clean-up work, but the majority of it has been completed, and most of the crews that were working there have now moved out to different areas and are performing Enhanced Vegetation Management (EVM) work.

When they were assigned to the Camp Fire project, these members were working under the Project Labor Agreement, and while the total direct labor costs were the same under the PLA as they are under the Master Agreement, the benefits — such as medical, paid holidays, pension, etc. — were paid out in wages to the members (added to their basic wages is an increase in their hourly rate) instead of being put into the funds. Now that the PLA has expired and the companies are being required to sign the routine Master Agreement, the members are receiving all the paid benefits in lieu of that increased hourly rate they had under the PLA. This has caused a lot of confusion for some members who don't understand why it appears that their rate is lower on their paychecks. We have had to make numerous yard visits to explain this process. Once they understand the change, most are excited to get full medical benefits for themselves and their families. However, we've heard from some members who don't want the benefits and would prefer to keep the higher hourly rate, but this is not an option under the Master Agreement, and it has caused a few people to walk away from the job.

All prime tree companies are behind schedule right now. Some of them are so far behind that PG&E has pulled the EVM work, and some routine work, from them and issued it to other companies just to try to get everything back on schedule. This has made a few of the members that work for the prime contractors think that their company is going under, and they are nervous that they might have to switch companies again. We have had to do a lot of explaining that PG&E is doing everything they can to get things back on

schedule. The prime contractors would love to do the work themselves, but the manpower just isn't there right now, as trained and skilled employees are very hard to come by. Some companies are even offering sign-on bonuses to try to recruit new workers. There is plenty of work out there, but we are hearing that there are not enough applicants.

Unit meeting attendance has been down slightly this past quarter compared to last quarter. This can mostly be attributed to the members who have switched areas where they work and now have longer commutes, and at the end of the day, they just want to get home and see their families.

Grievances have also been down this quarter. Most problems have just been due to misunderstanding and can usually be solved with just a phone call or a conversation. There have been some issues of trying to get all the correct seniority dates figured out for the members that switched contractors. This caused members at a couple different companies to not get their holiday pay for Memorial Day, and we worked hard to get those issues resolved.

We are looking forward to a very busy season with crews working lots of overtime as PG&E keeps pushing to get back on track. Hopefully there will be no big fires this year, and we can stick to our plan and finally start getting a hold on things.

### Central Area

**Asplundh Tree Expert (Nevada Energy)** — The majority of the work continues in Reno and recently expanded to Lake Tahoe. The company's been in a hiring mode for a while, with NVE controlling how many crews to add. Unfortunately, some of the guys have been leaving their positions to seek other employment for better pay. Nevada is booming right now with lots of construction all around. The company is looking at negotiating an incentive program, which we expect to be discussing soon.

**Mowbray's (PG&E/SMUD)** — The company has been hiring at SMUD, and with the elimination of the PLA work in Paradise, several workers inquired about working in the Sacramento area and are now here. We're still working on outstanding grievances with the company, with most of them being at the grievance review level. All matters are carefully reviewed, and if not settled, they would they get sent to a pre-arbitration committee and, depending on what they see, could be referred to arbitration for final resolution.

The company still has crews all over Golden Gate Division, East Bay, and Sierra Division. We're getting complaints of not all hours being reported to Lineco medical. We're following up with the Lineco and the company to address

this matter. Unit meeting attendance has been average.

**Mountain Enterprise (Liberty Energy/PG&E)** — The company has been ramping up crews all over the system, most notably in Placerville and Auburn, where Davey Tree shipped out 25 of its crews to assist crews in its own areas. We are sometimes left not knowing where the crews are located, and this continues to be one of the key issues we have with the company. We'll be pushing the issue of giving the union specific headquarters and parking locations to perform crew visits. We know there was a stand down in June due to back-to-back outages on PG&E property, and yet we have yet to receive any information from the company.

**Davey Tree Surgery and Pole Test and Treatment** — The GRC committee is still working on a few open grievances. We expect to be securing another GRC committee meeting on new matters system-wide. We have a group in the Golden Gate Division with high expectations in changing the tree contract with a cost of living increase. The membership is interested in seeing substantial changes in the upcoming negotiations. We expect proposals to start trickling in as we get close to the fall of 2019. We know the company's having a hard time getting people to apply for work, even with companies such as Davey running an incentive program to get people to apply. It's very difficult to get anyone to apply, especially in the Bay Area.

In the Sierra Division, the company lost the contract to Mountain Enterprise in January 2019 with PG&E's regionalization plan. Now the company is required to adhere to all of ME's policies regarding PPE. ME issues long sleeve shirts to all its employees to wear for work. Davey's saying it's not going to follow that policy. So, our members were instructed to buy shirts on their own. We disagree with the company and will be filing a grievance against Davey Tree Surgery. OSHA supports our position and makes our case. We look forward to pushing this matter forward. To all members: save your receipts as we fight this one!

There was a major outage in the Walnut Creek area that impacted a substation. No injuries that we are aware of, only a bad plan in a tree removal job. Again, companies are not reporting what's happening in the field, but fortunately, the membership is keeping us informed of what's going on. Unit meetings have been good in the Bay and weak in the Foothills.

**Utility Tree Service (Roseville, and City of Palo Alto)** — Work has been steady at Roseville and Palo Alto. No injuries to report. UTS is no longer performing work on PG&E property.

**Wright Tree (SMUD, East Bay, San Jose Transmission)** — Hiring continues to take place at SMUD with crews being sent to work in the Bay Area on PG&E Transmission. There was an incident at SMUD which was captured on video, involving a General Foreman who got extremely out of hand with a crew member. We expect to meet with the com-

continued on page 29



## Nuevos contratistas, presión de producción, quiebra y negociación

Este ha sido un año muy agitado para todos en este grupo de trabajo. El año 2018 finalizó con muchas incertidumbres y 2019 comenzó con muchos cambios. Entre que hay nuevos contratistas, mucho movimiento de los miembros que cambian de compañía y/o de lugar de trabajo, y la bancarrota de PG&E, no faltan asuntos que resolver, y diariamente surgen nuevos asuntos.

Algunos de estos temas se están resolviendo, pero aún hay mucho por hacer. 2019 es el último año de nuestro acuerdo de negociación colectiva, y ahora tenemos contratistas adicionales. En la última ronda de negociaciones, representamos a miembros de 15 diferentes contratistas. Hasta el 1º de julio de 2019, habíamos añadido 19 nuevos contratistas a nuestra lista (ver más abajo). Esperamos añadir varios más, ya que los Acuerdos de trabajo por proyecto (PLA por sus siglas en inglés) que teníamos vigentes a finales de 2018 caducaron, y estos contratistas que habían firmado los PLA y quieren continuar trabajando aquí, tendrán que formar parte del Acuerdo Maestro. Esto agregará una faceta completamente nueva a las negociaciones este año, las cuales esperamos que comiencen a finales de agosto o principios de septiembre.

Entre el volumen de trabajo, la cantidad de horas-hombre, y el tipo de trabajo, que es una combinación de dos trabajos de alto riesgo: la tala y el trabajo en líneas de alta tensión, la seguridad de nuestros miembros es una gran preocupación. Hay muchos nuevos contratistas, mucha presión sobre la producción, y como mencionamos anteriormente, nuestros miembros tienen muchas cosas en qué pensar. Instamos a todos a permanecer alertas y a no comprometer para nada su seguridad ni la de sus compañeros de trabajo.

Compañías de poda de árboles recientemente organizadas

Las siguientes compañías han firmado el acuerdo de poda de árboles y despeje de líneas (LCTT por sus siglas en inglés) desde febrero de 2019. Muchas han trabajado bajo el PLA desde 2018, pero ahora han pasado al Acuerdo Maestro completo.

- AAA Tree Service
- ABC Landscaping & Excavation, Inc.
- Arborworks, Inc.
- Caltrees Inc.
- Carlos Tree Service
- CJ Tree Care, Inc.
- Core Tree Care, Inc.
- Evergreen Arborists, Inc. – Pro Forest Division
- Family Tree
- FSEI
- Kinsborough Atlas Tree Surgery Inc.
- Pride Contracting Inc.
- R&B Quality Tree Care, Inc.
- Rancho Tree Service
- Rapid Response Force LLC
- Rolling Green, Inc.

- Southern Disaster Recovery, LLC
- Wilhelm, Inc.

Recientemente hemos presentado reclamos porque algunas de estas compañías no están cumpliendo el acuerdo al no inscribir a sus miembros en el sindicato, o pagando e informando sobre los beneficios mensuales adicionales (seguro médico, jubilación, etc.) y las cuotas. Ha sido difícil hacerle seguimiento a todo esto debido a todos los movimientos y cambios. Las cosas se han calmado y tenemos un mejor mecanismo de seguimiento que nos permitirá hacer rendir cuentas a los empleadores de una manera más eficiente. Con esta nueva información, esperamos presentar más reclamos las próximas semanas.

Los informes a continuación fueron enviados por los Representantes de Negocios de cada zona.

### Zona norte

La zona norte continúa con mucha actividad. Finalmente están concluyendo los trabajos en Paradise después del incendio del campamento. Todavía quedan algunas cuadrillas haciendo el trabajo de limpieza final, pero la mayoría del trabajo se ha completado y la mayoría de las cuadrillas que trabajaban allí se han mudado a otras zonas y están ejecutando trabajo de gestión mejorada de la vegetación (EVM por sus siglas en inglés).

Cuando fueron asignados al proyecto del incendio del campamento, estos miembros estaban trabajando bajo el Acuerdo de trabajo por proyecto (PLA), y aunque los costos de mano de obra directos eran los mismos bajo el PLA que bajo el Acuerdo Maestro, los beneficios tales como seguro médico, vacaciones pagadas, jubilación, etc., se pagaban como parte de los salarios a los miembros (se agregaban a su sueldo resultando en una mayor tarifa por hora), en lugar de colocarlos en los fondos. Ahora que el PLA caducó, y las compañías están obligadas a firmar el Acuerdo Maestro normal, los nuevos miembros están recibiendo todos los beneficios pagados en lugar de la mayor tarifa por hora que tenían bajo el PLA. Esto ha causado mucha confusión en algunos miembros que no entienden por qué parece como si su tarifa por hora es menor en sus cheques de pago. Hemos tenido que hacer muchas visitas a los patios para explicar este proceso. Una vez que entienden el cambio, la mayoría están entusiasmados por recibir beneficios médicos completos para ellos y sus familias. Sin embargo, hemos escuchado que algunos miembros no quieren los beneficios y preferirían mantener su tarifa por hora más alta, pero esto no es una opción bajo el Acuerdo Maestro, y como resultado, algunas personas han renunciado al trabajo.

Actualmente, todas las mayores compañías de árboles están retrasadas

en su programa. Algunas están tan retrasadas que PG&E les ha retirado el trabajo de EVM y algunos trabajos rutinarios, y se los ha otorgado a otras compañías para intentar que todo esté al día. Por esta razón, algunos miembros que trabajan para los mayores contratistas han llegado a pensar que su compañía está a punto de quebrar, y están preocupados de tener que cambiar de compañía nuevamente. Hemos tenido que explicar muchas veces que PG&E está haciendo todo lo posible para que todo el trabajo esté al día. Los mayores contratistas quisieran hacer todo el trabajo, pero actualmente no tienen la fuerza laboral necesaria pues es muy difícil encontrar empleados capacitados y calificados. Algunas compañías incluso están ofreciendo bonos por contratación para tratar de reclutar a nuevos trabajadores. Hay mucho trabajo, pero hemos escuchado que no hay muchos candidatos.

El último trimestre disminuyó un poco la asistencia a las reuniones de la unidad comparado con el trimestre previo. La causa principal de esto es que los miembros que han cambiado a nuevas zonas de trabajo, ahora tienen que viajar más desde sus casas, y al final del día solo quieren regresar a sus hogares y a sus familias.

También han disminuido las quejas este trimestre. La mayoría de los problemas han sido por malentendidos y generalmente se pueden resolver con una llamada o una conversación. Ha habido algunos problemas para intentar corregir las fechas de antigüedad de los miembros que han cambiado de contratista. Como resultado de esto, algunos miembros en un par de compañías, no recibieron su pago de vacaciones por el Día de Conmemoración a los Caídos, y hemos trabajado arduamente para resolver esos asuntos.

Esperamos que esta temporada nos mantenga muy ocupados pues las cuadrillas están trabajando muchas horas de sobre tiempo y PG&E continúa presionando para ponerse al día. Esperamos que este año no haya grandes incendios, y que podamos cumplir con nuestro plan y finalmente tener todo bajo control.

### Zona central

**Asplundh Tree Expert (Nevada Energy)** — La mayoría del trabajo continúa en Reno y se ha ampliado recientemente a Lake Tahoe. La compañía ha estado contratando empleados desde hace un tiempo y NVE controla cuántas cuadrillas se pueden agregar. Lamentablemente, algunos de los empleados han dejado su trabajo para buscar otros empleos con mejores salarios. Nevada está en auge ahora pues hay mucha construcción en todas partes. La compañía desea negociar un programa de incentivo y esperamos tener discusiones al respecto pronto.

**Mowbray (PG&E/SMUD)** — La compañía ha estado contratando empleados en SMUD, y con la eliminación del trabajo de PLA en Paradise, varios trabajadores solicitaron trabajo en el área de Sacramento y ahora están aquí. Continuamos trabajando con la compañía en los reclamos pendientes, y la mayoría

de los casos se encuentran en la etapa de revisión. Todos los asuntos se están revisando cuidadosamente, y si no se resuelven, se llevarían al comité de arbitraje previo. Según lo que resulte de allí, podrían llevarse a arbitraje para su solución definitiva.

La compañía todavía tiene cuadrillas en toda la división Golden Gate, East Bay y Sierra. Hemos recibido quejas de que no todas las horas han sido notificadas a Lineco. Estamos realizando seguimiento con Lineco y la compañía para abordar este asunto. La asistencia a las reuniones de la unidad ha sido promedio.

**Mountain Enterprise (Liberty Energy/PG&E)** — La compañía ha estado aumentando el número de cuadrillas en todo el sistema, especialmente en Placerville y Auburn, donde Davey Tree envió 25 cuadrillas para ayudar a las cuadrillas de otras zonas. A veces no sabemos dónde se encuentran las cuadrillas, y este sigue siendo uno de los principales problemas que tenemos con la compañía. Seguiremos presionando para que informen al sindicato sobre la ubicación de las sedes y de los estacionamientos para poder realizar las visitas a las cuadrillas. Sabemos que las cuadrillas se retiraron en junio debido a interrupciones de electricidad continuas en las instalaciones de PG&E, pero aún no hemos recibido ninguna información de la compañía.

**Davey Tree Surgery and Pole Test and Treatment** — El Comité de resolución de quejas continúa trabajando en algunas quejas pendientes. Esperamos fijar otra reunión del Comité de resolución de quejas para discutir nuevos asuntos a todo lo largo del sistema. Tenemos un grupo en la división Golden Gate que tiene muchas expectativas para modificar el contrato de los podadores con un aumento del costo de vida. Los miembros están interesados en ver cambios importantes en las próximas negociaciones. Esperamos recibir propuestas a medida que nos acercamos al otoño de 2019. Sabemos que la compañía está teniendo dificultades para conseguir nuevos empleados, incluso compañías como Davey que tienen programas de incentivos para atraer empleados. Es muy difícil conseguir gente que solicite empleo, especialmente en el Bay Area.

En la división Sierra, la compañía perdió el contrato, con el plan de regionalización de PG&E, y este fue otorgado a Mountain Enterprise en enero de 2019. Ahora la compañía está obligada a acatar todas las políticas de Mountain Enterprise (ME) en lo que se refiere a equipos de protección personal (PPE). ME entrega camisas manga larga a todos los empleados para que las usen en el trabajo. Davey dice que no cumplirán con esa política. Así que se les informó a nuestros miembros que tenían que comprar sus propias camisas. No estamos de acuerdo con la compañía y presentaremos un reclamo contra Davey Tree Surgery. OSHA apoya y defiende nuestra posición. Esperamos continuar presionando sobre este asunto. Mensaje a todos los miembros: ¡guarden sus recibos mientras peleamos este asunto!

continúa en la página 29

July – September 2019

## Árboles, de la página 28

Hubo una interrupción de electricidad importante en la zona de Walnut Creek que afectó a una subestación. Hasta donde sabemos, no hubo lesiones, solo un mal plan al remover un árbol. Nuevamente, las compañías no están informando sobre lo que sucede en campo, pero afortunadamente los miembros nos mantienen informados sobre lo que acontece. Las reuniones de la unidad han sido buenas en Bay Area y flojas en Foothills.

**Utility Tree Service (Roseville y Ciudad de Palo Alto)** — El trabajo ha permanecido constante en Roseville y Palo Alto. No hay lesiones que reportar. UTS ya no realiza trabajos en las instalaciones de PG&E.

**Wright Tree (SMUD, East Bay, San Jose Transmisión)** — Continúan las contrataciones de empleados en SMUD y las cuadrillas se están enviando a Bay Area para trabajar en las líneas de transmisión de PG&E. Hubo un incidente en SMUD que fue capturado en video, donde un Capataz General perdió el control con un miembro de la cuadrilla. ¡Esperamos reunirnos pronto con la compañía para discutir cómo van a manejar este asunto! La asistencia a las reuniones de la unidad ha sido promedio.

### Zona Sur

El segundo trimestre ha sido muy intenso, y todos los contratistas están retrasados debido al inicio tardío. Todos los contratistas están contratando a nuevos empleados, y la mayoría no tiene experiencia. Estamos viendo que algunas compañías contratan operadores de tierra y los asignan a capataces, lo que hace que el capataz de la cuadrilla tenga que trabajar más, y se están cansando de no recibir la ayuda que necesitan. Se quejan de que esta no es una situación segura, porque si algo les sucede a ellos, los operadores de tierra no los podrían

rescatar. Los contratistas de poda de árboles están contratando a estos empleados con clasificación de operadores de tierra para pagar menores tarifas, y esto trae como consecuencia una situación de trabajo insegura.

La mayoría de los contratistas están trabajando 10 horas diarias y les piden a sus empleados que trabajen los sábados también, para intentar ponerse al día con el programa de mantenimiento de árboles, las previsiones de aumentos y los proyectos de árboles que PG&E les está solicitando. Como consecuencia de esto, las capacitaciones se han relegado a segundo plano, lo cual puede ser un factor contribuyente en muchas de las interrupciones de electricidad y accidentes. Se ignora la capacitación y la seguridad para aumentar la producción, y pensamos que esto es consecuencia directa de los precios unitarios.

El verano llegó, y tenemos problemas de agua y hielo en la zona sur, donde ya han ocurrido tres incidentes de agotamiento por calor. Los días calurosos, no tomar suficiente agua y la preocupación de cumplir con el número de árboles que hay que reportar cada día, puede hacer que un miembro se enferme. Tenemos problemas con muchos contratistas de poda de árboles que no informan sobre sus empleados al sindicato, o no envían toda la información necesaria, como las clasificaciones, los salarios y los nombres. Hemos presentando reclamos y estamos trabajando para corregir estos problemas.

La asistencia a las reuniones de la unidad ha disminuido porque después de trabajar 10 horas diarias, las personas están cansadas y tienen cosas que hacer en sus hogares, y quieren tiempo para estar con sus familias. Espero que el tercer trimestre tengamos noticias mejores y más seguras, a medida que nos acercamos a las negociaciones con todos los contratistas de poda de árboles en los meses venideros.

## Trees, from page 27

pany soon to discuss how they intend to handle this matter! Unit meeting attendance has been average.

### Southern Area

The second quarter has been hectic, and all contractors are behind schedule because of the late start. All contractors are hiring new employees, and most have no experience. We are seeing some companies hiring groundmen and putting them with foremen, which is making the foreman on the crew work harder, and they are getting tired and are not getting the help they need. They are complaining that this is unsafe, because if something happens to them, the groundmen can't rescue them. Tree contractors are hiring these employees at groundmen classifications to pay the lower rates, and this is resulting in an unsafe work situation.

Most tree contractors are working 10-hour days and are asking their employees to work Saturdays as well, to try to catch up with tree schedules, growing forecasts and tree projects that PG&E is requiring them to do. This causes train-

ing to be put on the back burner, which could be a contributing factor in many of the outages and accidents. Training and safety are being overlooked to get production up, and we feel this is a direct result of unit pricing.

Summer is here, and we are having water and ice issues in the southern area, where we have already had three heat exhaustion incidents. Hot days, not drinking enough water, and concern about tree count that they are required to report each day can cause a member to become ill. We are having issues with many of the tree contractors that are not reporting their employees to the union, and/or not reporting all of the info required of them, such as classifications, wage rates and names. We have grievances issued and are working to fix these matters.

Unit meeting attendance have been down because of the 10-hour days, people are tired and have things to do at home and want time to catch up with their families. I am hoping that the third quarter brings better and safer news to report on, as we head into negotiation with all tree contractors in the months to come.



IBEW 1245 members with Wright Tree at work in Modesto, CA

## Clearing Trees With Relative Ease

When tree branches come into contact with power lines, it can result in an outage — or even a fire. And thanks to a very wet and rainy winter, the foliage in California is exceptionally abundant and fast-growing this year. With fire season upon us, IBEW 1245's line clearance tree trimmers are working tirelessly to clear tens of thousands of trees that have grown too close to power lines, in a never-ending effort to keep our communities safe and our power reliable.

Every utility in the state is required to maintain a clearance around their lines — and given the increased tree growth and risk of fire, that means more 1245 tree trimmers are working longer hours in challenging conditions to get the work done.

In early July, the *Utility Reporter* caught up with a 1245 tree trimming crew from Wright Tree Service as they worked to clear branches from lines near James Marshall Elementary School in Modesto.

"We are trimming under 12KV, doing

routine trimming on the Paradise substation line to create minimum clearance, which is 10 feet away from the power lines — that's what MID (Modesto Irrigation District) requires," Foreman Juan Amezcua explained.

While time is always of the essence with line clearance tree work, Amezcua and his crew were facing an unusual sort of time constraint at that particular job. They needed to finish up before school let out — and it happened to be an early-dismissal day — in order to to make way for the school buses that

continued on page 43



Mario Costillo

Photos by John Storey

## Despeje de árboles con relativa facilidad

Cuando las ramas de los árboles entran en contacto con las líneas eléctricas, puede ocurrir un corte de energía, o incluso un incendio. Y gracias a un invierno muy húmedo y lluvioso, el follaje en California este año es excepcionalmente abundante y crece muy rápido. Se acerca la temporada de incendios, y los podadores de



Juan Amezcua



Kenny Brickey

fotos fueron tomadas por John Storey

árboles para el despeje de líneas del IBEW 1245, están trabajando incansablemente para despejar decenas de miles de árboles que han crecido y están demasiado cerca de líneas eléctricas, en un esfuerzo incesante de mantener seguras a nuestras comunidades, y ayudar a que la red eléctrica sea confiable.

Todas las compañías que prestan servicio eléctrico en el estado, están obligadas a mantener una distancia de despeje alrededor de sus líneas eléctricas. En vista del aumento en el crecimiento de los árboles y el riesgo de incendio, esto significa que hay más podadores de árboles del 1245 trabajando más horas, en condiciones difíciles, para completar el trabajo.

A principios de julio, la publicación *Utility Reporter* entrevistó a una cuadrilla de podadores de árboles del 1245 de Wright Tree Services, que estaban trabajando para despejar ramas de las líneas eléctricas cerca de la escuela James Marshall Elementary en Modesto.

"Estamos podando bajo las líneas de

continúa en la página 43

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Officers and Members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 1245 Vacaville, California

**Report on the Financial Statements.** We have audited the accompanying statements of Financial Position arising from cash transactions as of December 31, 2018 and the related Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 1245 for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements.** Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the cash basis: this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility.** Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion

As described in Note 1, these financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Accordingly, the accompanying statements are not intended to

present financial position and results of operations in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

**Opinion.** In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash basis transactions of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1245 for the year ended December 31, 2018 and its financial position (cash basis) at December 31, 2018 in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the statements.

**Report on Supplementary Information** Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental information is presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounts and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

San Bruno, California  
April 1, 2019  
DALMAS ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

## INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL NO. 1245 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS December 31, 2018

### Assets

<b>General Fund:</b>		
Bank of the West - checking accounts	1,269,418	
Bank of the West - money market	<u>2,088,926</u>	3,358,344
Cash funds		5,450
<b>Investments:</b>		
Merrill Lynch-Bank Deposit Program and other cash account		283,668
- Mutual Funds		2,920,899
- Common Stocks		1,513,269
Franklin Income Fund		1,664,675
200 shares PG&E common stock - at cost		<u>3,388</u>
Total General Fund		9,749,693
Political Donation Fund- checking account		<u>1,094</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>9,750,787</u>

<b>Fixed assets, (Note 1):</b>		
Automobiles (64) at cost	1,871,669	
Less: allowance for depreciation	<u>1,294,565</u>	577,104
Furniture and office equipment - at cost	256,404	
Less: Allowance for depreciation	<u>211,410</u>	44,994
Building and land-Vallejo		<u>253,703</u>
Total Assets		<u>10,626,588</u>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<b>Liabilities:</b>		
IBEW per capita portion of December receipts to forward	463,158	
Vacation and other payables	<u>2,881,882</u>	
Current Liabilities		3,345,040
I/O Loan payable- assumed due to merger of Local # 2376	<u>439,000</u>	
		<u>3,784,040</u>
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Unrestricted	6,841,454	
Designated - Political Donation Fund	<u>1,094</u>	6,842,548
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		<u>10,626,588</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

## INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL NO. 1245 STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS POLITICAL DONATION FUND Designated For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Cash balance, December 31, 2017	7,574
Receipts: Portion of Local Union dues directly deposited to this fund	<u>96,335</u>
Total receipts and balance	103,909

### Disbursements:

Capital Web Works- filing fees	585
Secretary of State- annual fees	100
Refund dues	<u>20</u>
Rob Bonita for State Assembly 2018	3,500
David Chiu Assembly 2018	2,000
Tony Thurmond for Superintendent	4,700
Bay Area Legislative Leaders PAC	2,500
So. Bay Labor Council	2,000
Malia Vella for Alameda City Council	3,000
Jim Oddie for City Council	3,000
Newsom for CA Governor	29,200
Patterson for Assembly 2018	4,400
Marc Berman for Assembly 2018	4,400
Jim Casper for Assembly 2018	4,400
Ash Kabra for Assembly 2018	3,000
Jim Wood for Assembly 2018	4,400
Tim Grayson for Assembly 2018	4,400
Lorena Gonzales for Assembly 2018	4,400
Glazer for Senate 2020	2,500
Chris Holden for Assembly 2018	8,800
Jordon Cunningham for Assembly	1,500
Committee to Elect Kelvin Atkinson	2,500
Friends of Joyce Woodhouse NV 2018	1,000
Jimmy Paulding for County Supervisor	1,500
Committee to Elect Chris Brooks NV	2,000
General Fund State of California	<u>3,010</u>
	102,815

Cash balance December 31, 2018	<u>1,094</u>
--------------------------------	--------------

## INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL NO. 1245 STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Cash and investments balance, beginning December 31, 2017	<u>\$ 12,744,573</u>
---	----------------------

### Receipts:

Local Union portion of receipts:		
"A" members' dues	1,589,740	
"BA" members' dues	20,169,018	
Initiation fees	48,543	
Reinstatement fees	7,940	
Agency fees	182,979	
Working dues	8,794,288	
Hiring hall dues	347,040	
Retiree's club dues	<u>15,789</u>	31,155,337

### Reimbursements to General Fund:

Interest and investment income	(976,270)
Refunds and reimbursements:	
Union Shopper	56,624
Other receipts	67,499
Automobiles sales	<u>22,157</u>
	(829,990)

### International portion of receipts:

"A" members' per capita	1,616,927
"BA" members' per capita	3,325,825
Initiation fees	54,570
D.B.A.F. fees	3,108
Reinstatement fees	21,421
Agency fees	<u>54,569</u>
Total receipts	35,401,767
Total balance and receipts	48,146,340

Disbursements, per Page 16 of Schedule of Disbursements	<u>38,396,647</u>
---	-------------------

Cash and investments balance, December 31, 2018, Details in Statement of Financial Position arising from cash transactions	<u>9,749,693</u>
--	------------------

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL NO. 1245 STATEMENT OF CASH DISBURSEMENTS UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS For the Year Ended December 31, 2018**

**Affiliation fees:**

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	5,025,000
Santa Clara C.L.C.	12,012
Alameda C.L.C.	14,670
Kern / Inyo / Mono	2,702
Nevada State Electrical Association	1,260
Sacramento C.L.C.	13,200
San Francisco C.L.C.	18,102
Contra Costa C.L.C.	11,700
Marin County C.L.C.	8,358
San Joaquin and Calaveras C.L.C.	5,238
Butte-Glenn C.L.C.	1,500
Napa-Solano C.L.C.	4,596
Fresno-Madera C.L.C.	5,400
Merced-Mariposa C.L.C.	2,250
Stanislaus-Tuolumne C.L.C.	1,860
Marysville C.L.C.	1,200
Humboldt-Del Norte C.L.C.	844
Five Counties C.L.C.	2,556
Monterey County C.L.C.	3,630
Government Coordinating Council	600
San Mateo C.L.C.	5,527
Joint Executive Conference-N.C. Electrical Workers	100
Tri Counties C.L.C.	5,808
Maritime Trades Post Council	600
Northern Nevada C.L.C.	1,650
Coalition Calif. Utility Workers EMPL	900,465
California State Association of Electrical Workers	772,680
CARA	1,000
NV Alliance Retired Americans	200
TCC-4	383
	<u>6,825,091</u>

**Staff expenses:**

Salaries	13,522,275
Expenses	715,084
Automobile expenses	113,002
Auto Purchases	177,653
Fitness plan	530
	<u>14,528,544</u>

**Research and Education:**

Subscriptions and publications	43,667
Scholarship fund	14,500
	<u>58,167</u>

**Office salaries:**

Administration office salaries	474,302
Bargaining unit salaries	1,006,922
	<u>1,481,224</u>

**Office expenses:**

Rent	280,000
Telephone	88,081
Postage mail service and meter expense	116,807
Print room/printing	52,209
Supplies	29,429
Equipment maintenance	16,567
Data processing	26,929
Equipment rental	19,659
Utility Reporter	358,797
Miscellaneous	13,542
Bank charges	58,683
Furniture and equipment purchases	218,072
Storage	14,565
	<u>1,293,340</u>

	Salaries Paid or Reimbursed	Expenses	Total
<b>Committee salaries and expenses:</b>			
<b>Executive salaries and expenses:</b>			
Executive Board meetings	45,680	39,620	85,300
Advisory Council	20,436	68,905	89,341
Trustee Committee	8,837	4,412	13,249
Review Committee	13,517	15,019	28,536
Safety Committee	19,275	8,760	28,035
Shop Steward expenses	154,141	101,059	255,200
Other conferences	85,390	250,896	336,286
Labor Management	1,367	15,198	16,565
Organizing	500	4,515	5,015
Organizing-Steward	104,033	93,937	197,970
Grievance/FF/LIC	<u>1,649</u>	<u>5,102</u>	<u>6,751</u>
	<u>454,825</u>	<u>607,423</u>	<u>1,062,248</u>

Utility Reporter

	Salaries Paid or Reimbursed	Expenses	Total
<b>Various Other Committees:</b>			
Outside Line		2,107	2,107
Davey Tree	1,062	239	1,301
Retirees		2,607	2,607
Central Labor		161	161
Diablo Canyon	696	1,942	2,638
City of Healdsburg		117	117
Membership development	13,850	71,999	85,849
Public Sector	207,407	53,785	261,192
Peer to peer		1,585	1,585
Facebook Development		348	348
Frontier committee		8,852	8,852
City of Willets		410	410
Joint Apprenticeship		2,167	2,167
Bella Vista		257	257
Mt. Wheeler		1,115	1,115
City of Vallejo	775	46,033	46,808
City of Lodi		765	765
City of Lompoc		1,171	1,171
Tri Dam		105	105
City of Oakland		250	250
Elect Workers W/O Borders	30,753	22,519	53,272
Leadership		391	391
Lockheed Martin	71,650	183	71,833
Local Union Election	322	8,986	9,308
Paradise ID		417	417
Trucker Donner PUD		186	186
Ethos Energy	10,766	20,916	31,682
Trees Inc.	8,042	17,551	25,593
Merced ID		152	152
City of Fernley	317	276	593
NV Energy	72,250	9,226	81,476
PUC		309	309
City of Roseville		905	905
Truckee Meadows	6,137	8,896	15,033
Modesto I.D.		5,815	5,815
Apprenticeship		2,230	2,230
Lindmore I.D.		121	121
City of Redding		2,956	2,956
Trans Canada		7,842	7,842
New Member training	15,565	26,168	41,733
Family Trees		225	225
Hold The Pull	132,152	66,796	198,948
Peer Volunteer program	42,043	6,143	48,186
Regional Transit	2,157	233	2,390
City of Santa Clara		4,452	4,452
Liberty / Calpeco		83	83
USBR	8,047	1,026	9,073
WAPA		2,332	2,332
Nevada De-Regulation		389	389
Port of Oakland	802	802	1,604
City of Berkeley		121	121
Trayer Engineering		140	140
No. California Power Agency		2,369	2,369
SMUD Neg.	68,961	138	69,099
Gill Ranch Gas Storage		40	40
Safety Summit	1,792	21,216	23,008
Competitive Challenge	483	110	593
Competitive Challenge AUG E/B		3,619,966	3,619,966
Delta Star	1,004	1,031	2,035
City of Alameda		54	54
Drone Training		<u>1,126</u>	<u>1,126</u>
	<u>707,461</u>	<u>4,050,424</u>	<u>4,757,885</u>

**PG&E Negotiation Committees:**

Departmental:			
Arbitration	1,130	41,606	42,736
Pilot Neg.		399	399
Negotiations	1,458	94,590	96,048
Ad Hoc	3,797	12,761	16,558
Call Center		340	340
Exhibit XVI	22,215	5,647	27,862
Service Crews		573	573
TSO		409	409
Revenue Assurance	1,446	3,798	5,244
GRS		65	65
Misc.Clerical Mtg	176	1,584	1,760
Sysop		35	35
Employee orientation	10,695	1,006	11,701
T & D		115	115
Gas Operations		141	141
Benefits		466	466
Rubber Glove		57	57
T-Men		186	186
Shared Services		<u>195</u>	<u>195</u>
	<u>40,917</u>	<u>163,973</u>	<u>204,890</u>

**Membership expenses:**

Supplies - Intl.	18,896
Supplies - Local	29,433
Membership fees	43,590
Labor Day Picnic	550
Union Shopper	77,301
Lineman Rodeo	86,839
Clay Shoot	6,726
Members Training/Education	118
Translation to Spanish	12,490
Golf tournament	2,874
	<u>278,817</u>

**Membership benefits:**

Group life insurance	261,422
Unit drawing award	650
Individual drawing award	550
Service award dinners	66,254
Flowers/donations/bibles	479
Social fund	<u>35,941</u>
	<u>365,296</u>

**Payroll taxes:**

<b>Employee portion:</b>	
U.S. income tax withheld	(2,328,965)
FICA withheld	(838,466)
California income tax withheld	(955,724)
SDI withheld	(86,338)
U.S. income tax forward	2,328,965
FICA forward	838,466
California income tax forward	955,724
SDI forward	86,338
<b>Local Union's portion:</b>	
FICA	827,064
California Unemployment	20,351
U.S. Unemployment	<u>18,301</u>
	<u>865,716</u>

**Employee benefits:**

Health and Welfare plans	2,825,804
Group life insurance	115,863
Pension plan	2,226,402
Other costs, pension plans	40,178
	<u>5,208,247</u>

**Other disbursements:**

Legal fees	629,219
Hall rentals	126,105
Workmen's compensation insurance	141,411
Refunds	14,600
PRD fees	27,984
Miscellaneous taxes	1,523
Insurance-cyber security	2,825
Insurance- travel	2,700
Insurance - auto	58,298
Insurance - bonds	570
Insurance - professional liability	100,225
Audit fees	54,250
Charitable donations	43,700
Miscellaneous fees	386
Sales tax	10,914
UCC-7	3,753
Community Unit Fund	31,030
Lobbying-NV	6,000
Contributions-wildfires	24,901
Website	100,288
Consulting website	1,065
Sponsorships	32,002
Injured workers	125
Payroll withholdings to be forward	3,004
Consulting fees	<u>51,750</u>
	<u>1,468,628</u>

Total Disbursements \$ 38,396,647



**Drive Away**

Check out the **Union Plus Car Rental Program's** discounts and services for union members and save up to 25%. Drive away in style—for less!

Learn more at [unionplus.org](http://unionplus.org)



**UNION PLUS**

# Pulling Wire in the Desert



Linemen  
Aaron Coulson  
and Willis Bland

Fifty miles north of Elko, NV, at a ranch near the tiny desert town of Tuscarora, an IBEW 1245 line crew from NV Energy was tasked with rebuilding an aging single-phase line.

“This line has been out here for a long time. It’s old, and the spans are real long. Real loose, sloppy wire,” said NV Energy Lineman Willis Bland, who was part of the six-man crew assigned to the job. “So we’re going through re-spanning the line, shortening things up, and getting a little more separation between the phase and the neutral so we don’t have outages and blown fuses.”

When the *Utility Reporter* caught up with Bland and his crew, they were working to interset a hot single-phase pole situated on a rugged dirt road.

“We’re mid-spanning it right now, so what we’ll end up doing is using this big bucket to go up, get ahold of this phase that running across the line here,” Bland explained as he gestured to the line overhead. “And there’s a little bucket up there. Me and Aaron Coulson — he’s

another journeyman lineman — we’ll go up there, get it untied, and then the guy in the bucket will lift that phase and get it out of the way. That will make room for us to set the new pole, and once the new pole’s in, we’ll land that wire in there, cut that pole top out, and that’ll be that.”

The work was pretty straightforward, and the quiet, scenic desert surroundings were extraordinarily peaceful — but as any lineman knows, any time you’re on a job, things can change in the blink of an eye.

As Bland was talking with the *Utility Reporter*, he heard a commotion a few yards down the road, and when he looked over, he saw a flat-bed farm truck that had driven off the narrow, unpaved street.

In true IBEW 1245 tradition, the crew quickly went over to check on the driver (who thankfully was ok) and then proceeded to help him get his vehicle back on the road before returning to work.

Bland and his crew take care of each other and the community they serve —



From left: Erik Hall and Jose Sandoval



NV Energy crew, from left: Jose Sandoval, Aaron Coulson, Brady Brunson, Cody Parker, Eric Jackson and Willis Bland



Lineman Jose Sandoval from NV Energy runs a backhoe.



Bland and his crew helped this driver right his truck after it ran off the road.

and Bland knows that he also is fortunate to have the union there to take care of him and his co-workers.

“There’s a lot of good things about the union. You have them looking out for you, watching your back. You have somebody advocating for you on your behalf. If you have problems, if you have questions, the union’s there. To me, that’s huge,” said Bland. “And it’s just good to be with a brotherhood of guys that are well-trained. I know everyone here got the same training, the same background... I actually worked non-union construction for 10 years, and the difference is night and day. It’s much better over here.”



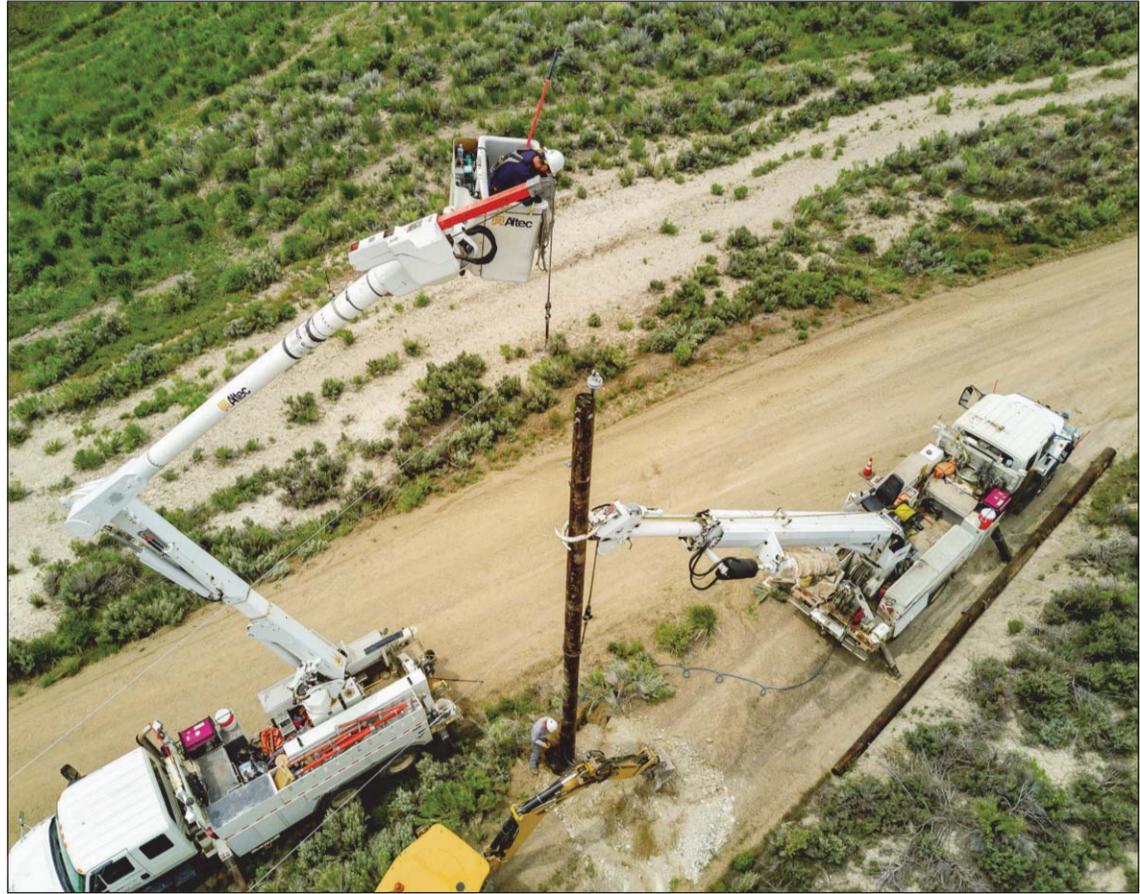
Lineman Jose Sandoval



Lineman Willis Bland



Lineman Jose Sandoval



Linemen from NV Energy replace a pole.

Photos by John Storey

## SB 329: New IBEW-Backed Natural Disaster Law Aims to Mitigate Wildfire Risk in Nevada

Advocates of SB 329, including IBEW 1245 retiree Rita Weisshaar (second from left) pose for a group photo at the bill signing ceremony on May 22.



On May 22, Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak signed SB 329 (Brooks) into law. This new natural disaster bill requires the state, its regulators and its utilities to take prudent steps to reduce the frequency and intensity of wildfires by adopting new forest management practices, undertaking fuel reduction and vegetation trimming, and requiring the hardening of electric utility infrastructure.

SB 329 was strongly supported by IBEW 1245 as well as Las Vegas-based IBEW Local 396, and the law contains several key provisions that will benefit IBEW members in Nevada, as well as the customers and communities they serve. The new law requires the utility to establish a safety, reliability, and Utility Reporter

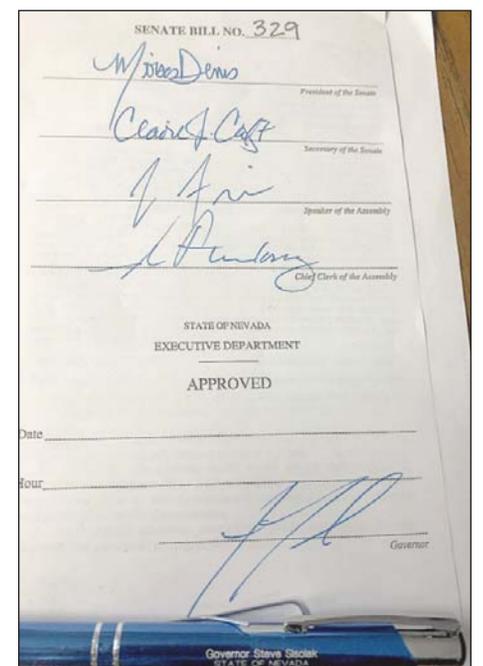
resiliency plan (known as the NV Energy Natural Disaster Protection Plan) with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) by 2020. Rural Electric Cooperatives will be encouraged to adopt similar plans and, on an advisory basis, file them with the PUCN. These plans will include significant grid hardening projects, which will provide a good amount of work for IBEW members for years to come. Since the law requires NV Energy to comply — separately from the General Rate Case — it guarantees that this work will be done and is not subject to limitations in funding or other potential roadblocks. The PUCN must implement these improvements.

Additionally, SB 329 is the first law in

Nevada history to establish a Qualified Electrical Worker (QEW) standard to perform work on any distribution or transmission system for safety and reliability performance obligations. This standard also applies to line clearance tree trimmers who are not employed directly by an electric utility but work under the supervision of an electric utility or the PUCN. Local 396 Assistant Business Manager Jeremy Newman deserves special recognition for his work in advocating for the inclusion of this language.

SB 329 garnered broad bipartisan support in the Nevada State Senate and Assembly. There were zero votes against the bill in the Senate, during committee votes as well as on the Senate Floor. There was also no opposition to the bill in the Assembly committees, and only two votes against it on the Assembly Floor.

“Given the increase in the frequency and severity of wildfires in Nevada and all across the west, this new law is a critical step forward to protect life and property by reducing the potential damage from these catastrophic events,”



said IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. “Our members are ready and willing to do the work that’s needed to mitigate wildfire risk, and this law provides the means to do it. We applaud the Nevada Legislature, particularly bill sponsor Sen. Chris Brooks, for advancing this bill so quickly. We also commend Gov. Steve Sisolak for signing the measure immediately, sending a clear message that Nevada cannot afford to wait when it comes to reducing the risk of wildfire.”

# “A Complete Package of a Unionist”

## Senior Assistant Business Manager Ray Thomas retires from the union

Of all the remarkable and dedicated unionists to ever grace the halls of IBEW 1245, Senior Assistant Business Manager Ray Thomas is sure to go down in history as one of the best of the best.

Thomas learned about the value of the union from a young age. His dad, Lee Thomas Jr, was active in 1245 for many years, and even served as union president on two separate occasions, from 1963-67 and again from 71-74. As soon as the younger Thomas had an opportunity to join the workforce, he secured his very own 1245 union card.

The year was 1983, and Thomas was on a summer break from junior college when he first hired on as a climber with Asplundh Tree Expert Company, and, unsurprisingly, wasted no time becoming a shop steward and was eventually promoted to foreman. A few years later, he went to work as a utility arborist for the City of Redding Electric Utility, also a 1245-represented position. He worked there for 11 years, serving as a shop steward as well as Advisory Council member (a victory that he attributes to his father, who campaigned aggressively on his behalf).

In 1998, then-Business Manager Jack McNally brought Thomas onto the IBEW 1245 staff as an organizer. Those early days with the union will be forever etched in Thomas' mind.

“I have lots of fond memories of working at Local 1245, but one of the best is when my father drove to unit meetings with me during my new assignment in Northern Nevada, less than a year before he would unexpectedly pass away,” Thomas recalled, grateful to have had that time together with his dad.

Over the next two decades, Thomas would work with Local 1245 members in nearly every corner of the union's jurisdiction, as an organizer, business rep, assistant business manager and senior assistant business manager. He also earned his bachelor's and master's degrees while working for 1245, which is no small feat. He's well-known among members and reps alike for his unparalleled knowledge and support, as well as his extremely effective approaches at the bargaining table.

“Ray is as complete a package of a

unionist that I've ever met. He is passionate, he is tireless, he is smart, and he is prepared. If Ray isn't the best negotiator who worked for Local 1245, he is tied for best,” said IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell. “He earned his BA and a master's degree while working with us, and is a unique combination of empathy, intelligence, and education.”

“I have never met anyone that would answer a question at 11pm on a Sunday as Ray has,” said 1245 Business Rep Jaime Tinoco. “He's never left me waiting for an answer on anything, always acknowledging and respecting my opinions, good or bad.”

“Ray always amazed me at how quickly he would respond to questions, either returning long, thorough answers via text (if he was unable to return my phone call at that moment), or a return call,” echoed Business Rep Dominic McCurtain.

“Ray has always exhibited the best qualities of the union — intelligence, integrity, empathy and hard work,” added Assistant Business Manager Al Fortier.

After a lengthy 36-year union career, including 21 years on staff at 1245, Ray Thomas retired from the union this summer. His colleagues have nothing but warm wishes for him in his retirement.

“I will always honor every moment I spent watching Ray kick ass at the bargaining table, his quick response to every long, long email I would send him, but most importantly his guidance and trust,” remarked Business Rep Cruz Serna.

“He's been a friend over the years, never without a smile, a joke, and a laugh. I will miss him,” said Dalzell.

“People like Ray only come once every 50 years, and I'm glad that I had the opportunity to work with and learn from him,” said Tinoco.

“I will certainly miss him as a union brother and coworker, but I wish him good luck in his retirement, and feel privileged to be able to call him my friend,” said McCurtain.

“The standards that he's set will be hard to follow, but I feel confident that the experiences that we have shared with him will carry us forward.” said Fortier, who will be filling Thomas' big



As a high school senior, Ray Thomas received IBEW 1245's Al Sandoval Memorial Scholarship. From left: Business Manager Jack McNally, Ray Thomas, his mom Idella and dad Lee

shoes on the public- and private-sector side of 1245. “Ray, it's been a pleasure to work with you, and I wish you happiness and success in whatever lies ahead.”

While Thomas will miss working with the shop stewards and staff at the local, he is looking forward to spending more time with his family, including his son Josh and brothers Lee and Jeff.

“I want to thank to Jack McNally for hiring me and allowing me to begin studies at the former National Labor

College. Thanks to Perry Zimmerman and Tom Dalzell for allowing me to finish my schooling at the NLC and then George Mason University in Virginia,” said Thomas. “Thanks to all of the business representatives I worked with over the last 21 years, and thanks to [recently retired] Senior Assistant Business Manager Dennis Seyfer for always having my back.”

— Rebecca Band, IBEW 1245 Communications Director

### Ray Thomas recalls his first brush with union organizing:

“After junior college, and before becoming a Foreman with Asplundh, I welded steel and aluminum for Paracclipse out of Redding CA. Paracclipse was a company that manufactured satellite dishes. At Paracclipse, I made three close friends, brothers named Mike, Mark, and Matt Corbell. Three excellent welders, and also the sons of Max Corbell, a long-time Local 1245 member and formerly a good friend and co-worker with my Father, Lee Thomas, at PG&E in Redding.

Gearing up for a large order of satellite dishes to China, the President of Paracclipse informed all three shifts of welders that if we could increase production on order to fill the Chinese order, he would add an additional piece rate to our hourly rate for each component welded. We met his goal, only for him to renege on the piece rate offer several weeks later. Along with a majority of workers at Paracclipse, we reached out to IBEW Local 1254 in order to seek representation. The President of Paracclipse warned us that if we sought to go union, he'd shut the plant down. Many of us signed recognition cards regardless, and the President of Paracclipse shut the doors before we could get to an election.”



Thomas (right) at an informational picket to expose the threat of non-union line clearance tree trimming contractors trying to obtain contracts with PG&E.

# 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, Cotati, Merced, Sacramento/Vacaville, Reno/Sparks, Yerington, Carson City and Winnemucca. If you don't have a chapter nearby, call the union at 707-452-2718 and find out how you can help start one!

Ammon, Jefferson 41 years Citrus Heights, CA	Buchanan, Spencer 21 years Johnstown, CO	Culcasi, Salvatore 8 years Brentwood, CA	Fifer, James Jr. 39 years Fresno, CA	Gonzales, Mary 6 years North Highland, CA	Holloway, John 20 years Atascadero, CA	Lavigne, Andrea 35 years Payson, AZ	Meadows, Paul 46 years Woodland, CA	Rose, Lance 37 years Colfax, CA
Ammon, Jefferson 40 years Citrus Heights, CA	Burruel, Manuel 29 years Burney, CA	Culver, Thomas 39 years El Dorado Hills, CA	Figueroa, Richard 22 years Morgan Hill, CA	Grossman, Douglas 40 years Santa Maria, CA	Hubbart, Julie 34 years Fresno, CA	Lee, Dennis 40 years San Francisco, CA	Medeiros, Gerroll Jr. 44 years Fresno, CA	Rutland, Jesse 39 years Fairfield, CA
Arter, Kara 32 years Lake Havasu City, AZ	Chin, Russell 33 years Daly City, CA	Daniel, Peggy 40 years Oakley, CA	Fitzgerald, Janell 8 years Red Bluff, CA	Guttirez, Gilbert 42 years Hollister, CA	Jones, Phyllis 39 years Vallejo, CA	Loewen, James 35 years Grass Valley, CA	Miller, Kevin 34 years Redding, CA	Salgado, Olga Estrella 14 years Salinas, CA
Babcock, John 32 years Chico, CA	Chu, Daniel 33 years San Bruno, CA	Deans, Jacqueline 32 years Oakland, CA	Fong, Ronald 35 years San Rafael, CA	Hafalia, Renaldo 45 years Daly City, CA	Jones, Joy 39 years Capitola, CA	Luis, Gary 35 years Atwater, CA	Miyamoto, Martin 39 years Watsonville, CA	Saner, Michael 34 years Hayward, CA
Battle, Janet 6 years Fresno, CA	Cochrane, Gregory 34 years Orland, CA	Devalle, Clay 33 years Murphys, CA	Fulton, Robert 29 years Box Elder, SD	Hakker, Steven 35 years Fresno, CA	Katz, Raymond 31 years Paso Robles, CA	Martin, Brent 31 years Orland, CA	Mohr, Richard 29 years Fort Bragg, CA	Sarino, Peter 26 years San Leandro, CA
Bernardino, Maritess 27 years Danville, CA	Cole, Raymond 45 years Corona, CA	Doty, Curtis 41 years Bakersfield, CA	Garner, Mark 42 years Stockton, CA	Hathaway, Kenneth 22 years Shasta Lake, CA	Kelly, James 35 years Cloverdale, CA	McCarthy, Daniel 18 years Petaluma, CA	Moore, Patricia 33 years Modesto, CA	See, Marla 45 years Terry, MT
Berry, David 34 years Vallecito, CA	Collins, Paul 27 years Fresno, CA	Eck, Steven 11 years Antioch, CA	Gee, Steve 22 years Taft, CA	Hayden, Diana 40 years Elk Grove, CA	Kenney, Stephen 35 years Cloverdale, CA	McCoy, Allison 28 years Weimer, CA	Mowry, Scott 40 years Chico, CA	Sexton, Steven 36 years Round Mountain, CA
Bishop, Marsha 29 years Sacramento, CA	Corwin, Mary 25 years Folsom, CA	Evans, Jadine 28 years Gainesville, FL	Gitthens, Roy 10 years Carson City, NV	Hayward, Shelley 10 years Rocklin, CA	Kinman, Kenneth 35 years San Ramon, CA	McDonald, Barry 41 years Petaluma, CA	Murphy-Van Blaricom, Kimberly Beth 4 years Folsom, CA	Slawson, Jill 13 years Coulidesac, Idaho
Bonner, Keith 14 years Perkasie, PA	Creighton, G 26 years Folsom, CA	Fechter, Tim 33 years Calistoga, CA	Gonzales, Alex 50 years Aptos, CA	Hearne, Rodney 35 years Marysville, CA	Kinores, Gloria 31 years Castro Valley, CA	McGloiry, Michaela 33 years Stockton, CA	Naranjo, Angelita 46 years Lodi, CA	Smith, Robert 47 years Vallejo, CA
							Narez, Greg V 30 years Pittsburg, CA	Soares, Robin 25 years Port Angeles, WA
							Nelson, Richard 34 years Corning, CA	Solorzano, Victor 35 years Fresno, CA
							Nervo, Gregory 35 years Novato, CA	Sondersen, Garland 52 years Rodeo, CA
							Nicholson, Donald Jr. 23 years Templeton, CA	Steemers, Gerhardus 45 years Fairfield, CA
							Okamura, Dale 38 years Reedley, CA	Thomas, Philippe 33 years Jackson, CA
							Ortiz, Ramiro 47 years Placerville, CA	Tong, Sandra 42 years Elk Grove, CA
							O'Shea, Michael 33 years Livermore, CA	Truitt, Roy Jr. 38 years Bakersfield, CA
							Pacheco, Chester 15 years Manteca, CA	Tucker, Paula 36 years Kingsburg, CA
							Phan, Hoa 27 years Union City, CA	Turner, Jane 18 years Dayton, OR
							Pizzo, David 35 years Ukiah, CA	Vecchi, David 34 years Oroville, CA
							Pool, James 33 years Ukiah, CA	Vieira, David 26 years Antioch, CA
							Porcaro, Joseph 26 years Santa Rosa, CA	Wallace, Vernon 13 years Burney, CA
							Poulo, Steven 33 years Belmont, CA	Ward, Terry 6 years Salinas, CA
							Ray, Larry 39 years Oakley, CA	Wilson, Debra 8 years Antioch, CA
							Redondo, Cathy 10 years Ault, CO	Wilson, Claude 23 years Madera, CA
							Reece, Scott 27 years Fairfield, CA	Wolverton, Harold 35 years Corning, CA
							Reeves, Mathew 6 years	Wong, Gene 45 years San Francisco, CA
							Robertson, Blane 17 years Hopland, CA	Ybarra, Frank 41 years Marysville, CA
							Robinson, Donald 4 years Roseville, CA	
							Rodrigues, Louis 44 years Bakersfield, CA	

## Reno-Sparks Retirees Club Donates Fans to Needy Seniors

In the Reno-Sparks, Nevada 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 potentially life-threatening for low-income seniors.

Four years ago, IBEW Local 1245 Reno-Sparks Retirees Club President Ron Borst challenged the members of his club to take up a fan collection to address this very serious issue. The collection has become an annual tradition for the retirees, and this year, they donated 43 box fans to the Washoe

County Human Services Agency, which will in turn distribute them to seniors that can not afford air conditioning.

"I would like to thank you for your generous donation of forty-three box fans to our Senior Services Division," Washoe County Human Services Coordinator Abby Badolato wrote in a letter to the Retirees Club. "We are committed to enriching the lives of our participants

by providing quality services while preserving their dignity and independence. Washoe County seniors, who have contributed so much to quality of life in our community, deserve no less. Thank you for making a difference with your gift. Everyone appreciates your generosity."

Over the past four years, the Reno-Sparks retirees have donated a total of 163 fans to needy seniors.



From left: Reno-Sparks Retirees Club members Cyril Escallier, Frank Istrice and Club President Ron Borst

## Retirees Attend Briefing on PG&E Bankruptcy, Launch New Sacramento Retirees Club Chapter

On Wednesday, May 29, 19 PG&E retirees met at the IBEW 1245 union hall in Vacaville for a briefing on the PG&E bankruptcy. The meeting was the result of systematic outreach by Organizer Fred Ross as the union explores new ways to mobilize our current and former members to advocate for our membership in the context of the bankruptcy.

Senior Assistant Business Manager Bob Dean gave a comprehensive overview of the bankruptcy proceedings, the context leading to bankruptcy, and the challenges going forward. Business Reps Keith Hopp and Lou Mennel joined Ross and fellow Staff Organizers Rene Cruz Martinez and Eileen Purcell

to support the event.

The attendees, who had an average tenure of 30 years with the company, also discussed jump-starting a Local 1245 Retirees Club chapter in the Vacav-

ille/Sacramento area. The group wholeheartedly concurred that they want to start up the club. Hopp offered to staff the group, and Mennel will serve as backup.





# 37<sup>TH</sup> Annual Retirement Seminars-2019

I.B.E.W. Local 1245 and Gallo Group of Merrill Lynch



The collaboration of IBEW and The Gallo Group in 1982 led to a creation of retirement seminars which are open to IBEW, PG&E, Frontier Communications, and SMUD employees age 45+ and those on LTD. Family members or friends that will benefit from this presentation are also welcome to attend. These seminars are provided to you free of charge, and a meal will be served at each seminar for attendees' enjoyment. Please contact The Gallo Group of Merrill Lynch in Walnut Creek, CA at 925-945-4838 and ask for Matt Gallo or Kindy Mann if you have any questions.

**Topics:**

- Medical Cost/Medicare
- Optimize Social Security
- Stock Market Uncertainty
- Pre-Retirement Preparations
- Building your Retirement Plan

**RSVP:**

Matt Gallo or Kindy Mann  
 Email: kulwinder\_mann@ml.com  
 Text: 925-212-5703  
 Phone: 925-945-4838  
[www.ibew1245.com/retirementseminars](http://www.ibew1245.com/retirementseminars)



The Gallo Group

**San Jose**  
 Sat Aug 24  
 9:00 – 10:30 AM  
 Hyatt Place  
 San Jose-Downtown  
 282 Almaden Blvd.

**Bakersfield**  
 Sat Sept 7  
 9:00 – 10:30 AM  
 Padre Hotel  
 1702 18<sup>th</sup> St.

**Fresno**  
 Sat Sep 7  
 1:30 - 3:00 PM  
 DoubleTree  
 2233 Ventura St.

**Redding**  
 Sat Sept 14  
 9:00 – 10:30 AM  
 C.R. Gibbs  
 2300 Hilltop Dr.

**Chico**  
 Sat Sept 14  
 1:30 – 3:00 PM  
 Two Twenty  
 Restaurant  
 220 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.

**Monterey**  
 Friday Sept 20  
 6:30 – 8:00 PM  
 Montrio Bistro  
 414 Calle Principal

**San Luis Obispo**  
 Sat Sept 21  
 9:00 – 10:30 AM  
 Madonna Inn  
 100 Madonna Rd.

**Sacramento**  
 Sat Sept 28  
 9:00 – 10:30 AM  
 Holiday Inn  
 300 J St.

**Stockton**  
 Sat Sept 28  
 1:30 - 3:00 PM  
 Hilton Stockton  
 2323 Grand Canal  
 Blvd.

**Santa Rosa**  
 Sat Oct 5  
 9:00 – 10:30 AM  
 Hyatt Regency  
 Sonoma  
 170 Railroad St.

**Foster City**  
 Sat Oct 5  
 1:30 – 3:00 PM  
 Crowne Plaza  
 1221 Chess Dr.

**Concord**  
 Sat Oct 19  
 9:00 – 10:30 AM  
 Hilton Concord  
 1970 Diamond Blvd.

Gallo Recognized by:



*“This informative program has helped many of our members over the years as they think about how to prepare for retirement. We are pleased to offer this service, which is absolutely free to members and their spouses.”* **Tom Dalzell, IBEW 1245 Business Manager**



# SERVICE AWARDS

## Monterey March 29, 2019



### 30 Years

From left: Gary Bonfante and Craig Smith



**45 Years** Front row, from left: Ronald Garnett and Wouter Scheepe. Back row, from left: IBEW President Emeritus Art Freitas and Ricardo Diaz



**40 Years** Front row, from left: Scott Boynton and Jerry Takeuchi. Back row, from left: (Freitas), Marie Garcia and Reggie Encallado



### 20 Years

From left: Richard Carrillo and Terry Ward



### 35 Years

Front row, from left: Delia Gonzalez, Rufino Rangel and Roger Lopez. Back row, from left: John Schlegel, (Freitas), Mike Crivello and Mark Newman

Photos by John Storey

*Congratulations on your service!*



**15 Years** Front row, from left: Hugo Gonzalez and Justin Henson. Back row, from left: (Freitas) and Amber Lopez



**10 Years** Front row, from left: Vincent Agbalog and Danielle Hankla-Macias. Back row, from left: IBEW Business Manager Tom Dalzell and Quyen Ha



**5 Years** Front row, from left: Francisco Molina and Clay Wesley. Back row, from left: (Dalzell), Tom Sanchez and Michael Scotti

## HONOREES

### 50 Years

Airey, Ronald  
Gonzales, Alex

### 45 Years

Ball, Ken Jr.  
Clark, Dennis  
Diaz, Ricardo  
Garnett, Ronald  
Hamilton, Larry  
Nydegger, Greg  
Nystrom, Erik  
Robedeau, Kenneth  
Scheepe, Woulter

### 40 Years

Boynton, Scott  
Coronel, John Jr.  
Cummings, Curtis  
Encallado, Reggie  
Garcia, Marie  
Gayhart, Michael  
Hays, Nancy  
Higuera, Fernando  
Kelly, William  
Kuhn, Gary  
Naranjo, George  
Sepulveda, Kelly  
Thomas, Richard  
Thompson, Mark  
Vallejo, Craig

### 35 Years

Brandt, Fred  
Cook, Brian  
Crivello, Mike  
Freitas, Arthur  
Gonsales, Delia  
Hager, Todd  
Hurley, Kevin  
Lopez, Roger  
Mettalia, Robert  
Newman, Mark  
Padilla, Frank Jr.  
Periandri, Vincent  
Rangel, Rufino  
Robinson, Donald  
Schlegel, John

### 30 Years

Apple, Mary  
Gallegos, Enrique  
Herrera, Alex  
Richardson, Jerry  
Smith, Craig

### 25 Years

Garcia, Raymond  
Ketchum, John  
Williams, John

### 20 Years

Alvarado, Jose  
Bribiescas, Agustin  
Carrillo, Richard  
Honeycutt, Mark  
Kelley, Dwayne  
Ortiz, Antonio  
Pina, Jose

Villa, Martin

### 15 Years

Anderson, Jared  
Bailey, Doug  
Calderon, Frank  
Clavio, Anthony  
Cook, Ryan  
Dozal, John  
Farinsky, Michael Jr.  
Garcia, Daniel  
Harris, Craig  
Henson, Justin  
Horn, David  
Kitchen, Ryan  
Massey, Travis  
May, Richard III  
Ortiz, Roberto  
Pacheco, David  
Valenzuela, Jaime

### 10 Years

Alcantar, Leon  
Allred, Lance  
Amaya, Jose  
Avina, John  
De Sousa, Paul  
Dequin, Benjamin  
Galaz, Jose  
Grant, Dustin  
Hankla-Macias, Danielle  
Hennes, Kelby  
Hernandez, Candelario  
Herrera, Alexander  
Ilar, Chris Sr.  
Martinez, Alberto  
Mendez, Hugo  
Okumura, Russell  
Orendain, Luis  
Osborne, Lee

Palacios, George  
Parra, Miles  
Ponce, Solin  
Rangel, Jason  
Resendiz, Leobardo  
Silva, Jonathan  
Torres, Domingo  
Uranda, Alejandro  
Valdez, Anthony  
Vasquez, Cesar  
Williams, Valencio

### 5 Years

Accetta, Michael  
Ayala, Oscar  
Barrios, Edward  
Bermudes, Daniel  
Black, Joseph  
Boen, Michael  
Bryan, Jeffrey

Campa, Alexis  
Castro, Miguel  
Cervantes, Michael  
Chapa, Bobbie Jo  
Chavez, Fabio  
Clark, Robert  
Clay, Wesley  
Contreras, Javier  
Cotta, Ryan  
Daza, Carlos  
Garcia, Efrain  
Garcia, Eloy  
Garcia, Francisco  
Gibson, Phillip  
Gonzalez, Salina  
Gutierrez, Ramiro  
Gwara, David  
Haggerty, Daniel  
Harmon, Michael  
Hendricks, David

Henry, Isaac  
Koontz, Grant  
Lopez, Luis  
Marcil, Christopher  
Michalak, Nickolas  
Newland, Scott  
Ponce, Juan  
Ramos Rios, Vicente  
Rivera-Salinas, Javier  
Sanchez, Tom Sr.  
Sanchez, Rudy  
Scofield, Zachary  
Scotti, Micheal  
Seiter, Leanne  
Sterling, Prime  
Strickland, Thomas  
Ward, Terry  
Wechter, Logan  
Wells, Kevin

Connect with us  
on the web  
on Facebook  
on Instagram  
on Twitter



ibew1245.com



IBEWLocal1245



@ibew\_1245



IBEWLocal1245



# SERVICE AWARDS

## Fresno

March 9, 2019



**35 Years** From left: Kevin Stenroos, David Worstein and Tony Reed



**35 Years** Front row, from left: Crystal Puckett, Mary Crunk and Terri Eisenbraun. Back row, from left: Jose Zavala, Robert Purnell and Jimmie Pyle



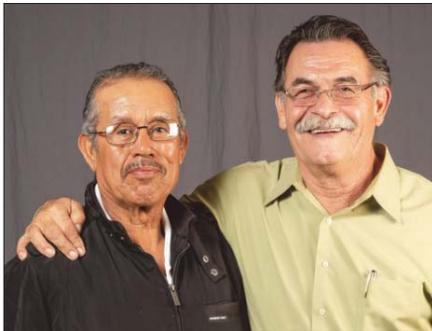
**25 Years** Front row, from left: Sylvia Cantu-Mohammed, Adrienne Condit and Elena Prado. Back row, from left: Teresa Ochoa, Valerie Lopez and Francine De La O



**15 Years**  
From left:  
Tomas Bray and  
Peggy Rogers-  
Butler



**45 Years** From left: Business Rep. Jim Brager, Dan Iwata and IBEW 1245 Treasurer (now President) Cecilia De La Torre



**30 Years**  
From left:  
Miguel Tena  
with Business  
Rep Abel  
Sanchez



**10 Years**  
From left:  
Raquel Ortiz  
with Business  
Rep Eddie  
Moreno



**10 Years** Front row, from left: Christy Jimenez, Christy Webb and Adriana Delgadillo. Back row, from left: Samuel Aspericueta, Heriberto Aviles and Michael Harbick



**5 Years** Front row, from left: Adriana Palacios, Yesenia Lopez and Yanet Tapia. Back row, from left: Jose Labrada, Hugo Ramirez and Steven Munoz



**40 Years** From left: (Brager) with Frederick Dwyer Jr.  
Photos by John Storey



**25 Years**  
From left: Joan Taff and Richard Trejo Jr.



**5 Years**  
From left:  
Michael Torres  
and Andres  
Contreras



**5 Years** Front row, from left: Rachel Montoya, Sara Sanchez and Tammie Sullivan. Back row, from left: Michael Tamayo, Kurene Turner and Rudy Salas



**5 Years** Front row, from left: Sandra Batres, Reyna Cardenas and Rudy Diaz. Back row, from left: Jose Catillo, Ryan Adams and Sylvia Jones

*Congratulations on  
your service!*

# HONOREES

## 45 Years

Dan Iwata  
Cotner, Glen  
Dwyer, Frederick Jr.  
Fifer, James Jr.  
Garcia, Alex  
Johnson, Dale  
Kane, Rick  
Landucci,  
Deborah  
Mason, Sheryl  
Moses, Victor  
Turner, Victor

## 40 Years

Aguires, Jesse  
Amesquita,  
Frank  
Brown, Damon  
Castaneda,  
Salvador  
Crunk, Mary  
Eisenbraun,  
Terri  
Gordon, James  
Grimes, Melody  
Hagen, Anton  
Hakker, Steven  
Hunter, Paul  
Jewett, Michael  
McCarty,  
Charles  
McKinney,  
Richard  
Mendes, Joseph  
Neathery, Daniel  
O'Neill, Denise  
Poulter, Donald  
Poulter, Gary  
Puckett, Crystal  
Purnell, Robert  
Pyle, Jimmie Jr.  
Reed, Tony  
Smith, Dale  
Solorzano,  
Victor  
Souza, Michael  
Sternoos, Kevin  
Steward, Greg  
Stockwell, Mark  
Tice, Houston  
Valin, Lawrence  
Vetter, Donald  
Wilshusen,  
Daryl  
Worstein, David  
Zavala, Jose

## 35 Years

Acosta, Nicholas  
Ajayi, Sonia  
Arroyo, Jose  
Aspericueta,  
Samuel  
Avedesian, Mike  
Aviles, Heriberto  
Bedrossian, Lori  
Bell, Christopher  
Benedix, Beau  
Berry, Joshua  
Bosley, Willard  
Carbajal, Gabriel  
Cary, Johnathon  
Cederlof, Scott  
Cordero, Victor  
Crooks,  
Jonathan  
Dimmett, Isaac  
Donnelly,  
Karson  
Downs, Martin  
Dragner, Laurie  
Driskell,  
Monique  
Driver, Kenneth  
Epperley,  
Kriosteena  
Faust, Dustin  
Galvan, Nicolas  
Garnica-Ortiz,  
Raquel  
Garza, Michelle  
Gaytan, Michael  
Goodman,  
Daniel  
Guynes, Wendy  
Guzman,  
Valdemar  
Haran, Vanessa  
Harbick, Michael  
Henley, Gary  
Henry, Delman  
Hernandez,  
Alicia  
Hirabayashi,  
Kenneth  
Jackson,  
Nathaniel  
Jeffrey, Dwayne  
Jenkins,  
Raymond  
Jimenez, Christy  
Joest, Sharie  
Jones, Brian  
Kelly, Valerie  
Keplinger, Ana  
Kinsey, Unique

## 30 Years

Alvarez, Manuel  
Bravo, Mario  
Furch, Ernest  
James, Tom  
Myers, Alan  
Nazareno, Oscar  
Russell, Karen  
Blanchard, Eric  
Cisneros, Jim  
Curtiss, Michael  
Eberhardt, Scott  
Fitzgerald,  
Maureen  
Gallegos, Richelle  
Henderson,  
William  
Lorenzi-Leandro,  
Lorie  
McClenahan,  
James  
Moyano, Rick  
Naipo, Derek  
Negranza, Donny  
Stouffer, Bill  
Tapella, Michael  
Youmans, Michael

## 25 Years

Bencomo, Martha  
Calhoun, Idalina  
Cantu-Lopez,  
Sylvia  
Condit, Adrienne  
De La O,  
Francine  
Esquivel,  
Cynthia  
Franco, Melissa  
Friend, Marcia  
Harkness, Clara  
Lopez, Berta  
Lopez,  
Josephine  
Lopez, Valerie  
Ochoa, Teresa  
Prado, Mary  
Ramirez, Joe  
Rodriguez,  
Beatriz  
Rodriguez,  
Ricardo  
Ross, Timothy  
Siguenza, Ana  
Taff, Joan  
Thompson, Bart  
Trejo, Richard  
Jr.  
Vargas, Berta  
Wheat, Jeff  
Whiteley, Jonell  
Ybarra, Michael

## 20 Years

Blanchard, Eric  
Cisneros, Jim  
Curtiss, Michael  
Eberhardt, Scott  
Fitzgerald,  
Maureen  
Gallegos, Richelle  
Henderson,  
William  
Lorenzi-Leandro,  
Lorie  
McClenahan,  
James  
Moyano, Rick  
Naipo, Derek  
Negranza, Donny  
Stouffer, Bill  
Tapella, Michael  
Youmans, Michael

## 15 Years

Andrade, Miguel  
Austin, Brad  
Avila, David  
Ball, Eric  
Blackmon, Brad  
Bray, Tomas  
Contreras,  
Benjamin  
Coop, Nicholas  
Cowings,  
Ronald  
Esposito,  
Anthony  
Franco, Gonzalo  
Garcia, Rowena  
Garza, Enrique  
Jr.  
Gravelle, Joshua  
Griesner, Ray  
Lougee,  
Thomas 'Bud'  
Medel, Tyler  
Mejia, Luis  
Michaelson,  
Jeffery  
Oliver, Chad  
Pacini, Matthew  
Pasalakis, Rick  
Powell, Anthony  
Reed, Jeff  
Rogers-Butler,  
Peggy  
Rombaoa,  
Samuel II  
Russell, Stuart  
Silveria, Renee  
Slator, David  
Valencia,  
Audilon  
Van Patten,  
Michelle  
Adams, Michael  
Adams, Ryan  
Aguilar,  
Matthias  
Alcazar, Luis  
Aldrete,  
Veronica  
Ambrifi,  
Rebecca  
Arizaga, Eloisa  
Batres, Sandra  
Bautista, Ana  
Black, Shayla  
Boyett, Tanner  
Boyle, Joseph  
Braden, Gary  
Brancato, Gino  
Budnik, Timothy  
Busby, Stanley  
Jr.  
Butler, Austin  
Canales,  
Micheal Jr.  
Canning,  
Dominic  
Capuchino,  
Jeffrie  
Cardenas,  
Reyna  
Carlson, Steve  
Castanon,  
Ricardo  
Castillo, Jose  
Chavez, Norma  
Chavez-  
Tiscareno,  
Ricardo  
Cheney, Parker  
Church, Tony  
Collins, Garrett  
Contreras,  
Andres  
Costa, Rory  
Diaz, Rudy  
Erisman, Kyle  
Escobar, Yeni  
Espinosa,  
Dominic  
Esteves, Maria  
Falcon, Arthur  
III  
Farwell, Victoria  
Fernandez,  
Rogelio Sr.  
Flores, Elizabeth  
Flores, Patricia  
Friesen, Jessica  
Fuentes, John  
Garcia Deojeda,  
Laura  
Garcia Maravilla,  
Lindblom,  
Timothy  
Machi, Anthony  
Maltos, Isaac  
Martinez,  
Dionicio  
Massingham,  
Chad  
Mata, Ernest  
Mertens,  
Jocalyn  
Moua,  
Sayphong  
Noriega, Mark  
Null, Scott  
Oates, James  
Padron,  
Vanessa  
Pellegrini,  
James  
Phillips, Jason  
Pineda, Steven  
Rey, Kelly  
Rios, Armando  
Rose, Lisa  
Sandoval, Luis  
Smith, Sonia  
Snyder, Earl  
Souvannasanh,  
Nga  
Stark, Patrick  
Stoffel, Clint  
Sua, Pou  
Susoev, Joseph  
Tompkins,  
Jeremiah  
Tulchinsky,  
Aaron  
Valdez, Joey  
Valencia, Miguel  
Vanderslik,  
Justin  
Vargas, Sulema  
Vidales,  
Humberto  
Walters, Lucas  
Webb, Christy  
Webb, Cornelius  
Webb, Jonathan  
Wenger, Julie

## 10 Years

Adams, Michael  
Adams, Ryan  
Aguilar,  
Matthias  
Alcazar, Luis  
Aldrete,  
Veronica  
Ambrifi,  
Rebecca  
Arizaga, Eloisa  
Batres, Sandra  
Bautista, Ana  
Black, Shayla  
Boyett, Tanner  
Boyle, Joseph  
Braden, Gary  
Brancato, Gino  
Budnik, Timothy  
Busby, Stanley  
Jr.  
Butler, Austin  
Canales,  
Micheal Jr.  
Canning,  
Dominic  
Capuchino,  
Jeffrie  
Cardenas,  
Reyna  
Carlson, Steve  
Castanon,  
Ricardo  
Castillo, Jose  
Chavez, Norma  
Chavez-  
Tiscareno,  
Ricardo  
Cheney, Parker  
Church, Tony  
Collins, Garrett  
Contreras,  
Andres  
Costa, Rory  
Diaz, Rudy  
Erisman, Kyle  
Escobar, Yeni  
Espinosa,  
Dominic  
Esteves, Maria  
Falcon, Arthur  
III  
Farwell, Victoria  
Fernandez,  
Rogelio Sr.  
Flores, Elizabeth  
Flores, Patricia  
Friesen, Jessica  
Fuentes, John  
Garcia Deojeda,  
Laura  
Garcia Maravilla,  
Lindblom,  
Timothy  
Machi, Anthony  
Maltos, Isaac  
Martinez,  
Dionicio  
Massingham,  
Chad  
Mata, Ernest  
Mertens,  
Jocalyn  
Moua,  
Sayphong  
Noriega, Mark  
Null, Scott  
Oates, James  
Padron,  
Vanessa  
Pellegrini,  
James  
Phillips, Jason  
Pineda, Steven  
Rey, Kelly  
Rios, Armando  
Rose, Lisa  
Sandoval, Luis  
Smith, Sonia  
Snyder, Earl  
Souvannasanh,  
Nga  
Stark, Patrick  
Stoffel, Clint  
Sua, Pou  
Susoev, Joseph  
Tompkins,  
Jeremiah  
Tulchinsky,  
Aaron  
Valdez, Joey  
Valencia, Miguel  
Vanderslik,  
Justin  
Vargas, Sulema  
Vidales,  
Humberto  
Walters, Lucas  
Webb, Christy  
Webb, Cornelius  
Webb, Jonathan  
Wenger, Julie

## 5 Years

Adams, Michael  
Adams, Ryan  
Aguilar,  
Matthias  
Alcazar, Luis  
Aldrete,  
Veronica  
Ambrifi,  
Rebecca  
Arizaga, Eloisa  
Batres, Sandra  
Bautista, Ana  
Black, Shayla  
Boyett, Tanner  
Boyle, Joseph  
Braden, Gary  
Brancato, Gino  
Budnik, Timothy  
Busby, Stanley  
Jr.  
Butler, Austin  
Canales,  
Micheal Jr.  
Canning,  
Dominic  
Capuchino,  
Jeffrie  
Cardenas,  
Reyna  
Carlson, Steve  
Castanon,  
Ricardo  
Castillo, Jose  
Chavez, Norma  
Chavez-  
Tiscareno,  
Ricardo  
Cheney, Parker  
Church, Tony  
Collins, Garrett  
Contreras,  
Andres  
Costa, Rory  
Diaz, Rudy  
Erisman, Kyle  
Escobar, Yeni  
Espinosa,  
Dominic  
Esteves, Maria  
Falcon, Arthur  
III  
Farwell, Victoria  
Fernandez,  
Rogelio Sr.  
Flores, Elizabeth  
Flores, Patricia  
Friesen, Jessica  
Fuentes, John  
Garcia Deojeda,  
Laura  
Garcia Maravilla,  
Lindblom,  
Timothy  
Machi, Anthony  
Maltos, Isaac  
Martinez,  
Dionicio  
Massingham,  
Chad  
Mata, Ernest  
Mertens,  
Jocalyn  
Moua,  
Sayphong  
Noriega, Mark  
Null, Scott  
Oates, James  
Padron,  
Vanessa  
Pellegrini,  
James  
Phillips, Jason  
Pineda, Steven  
Rey, Kelly  
Rios, Armando  
Rose, Lisa  
Sandoval, Luis  
Smith, Sonia  
Snyder, Earl  
Souvannasanh,  
Nga  
Stark, Patrick  
Stoffel, Clint  
Sua, Pou  
Susoev, Joseph  
Tompkins,  
Jeremiah  
Tulchinsky,  
Aaron  
Valdez, Joey  
Valencia, Miguel  
Vanderslik,  
Justin  
Vargas, Sulema  
Vidales,  
Humberto  
Walters, Lucas  
Webb, Christy  
Webb, Cornelius  
Webb, Jonathan  
Wenger, Julie



# SERVICE AWARDS

## San Jose March 1, 2019



**45 Years** From left: IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell, Steven Camarena and Jim Drapchaty



**30 Years** From left: Aaron Riggins, June Yamaguchi, (Dalzell) and President Emeritus Art Freitas

*Congratulations on your service!*



**5 Years** Front row, from left: (Dalzell), Pauline Feazell and Theresa Calderon. Back row, from left: Dagoberto Balcazar, Kathy Lee Polido and Ramon Arcinas

# HONOREES

## 45 Years

Camarena, Steven  
Claus, Joseph  
Drapchaty, Jim

## 40 Years

Alvarez, Manuel  
Bravo, Mario  
Furch, Ernest  
James, Tom  
Myers, Alan  
Nazareno, Oscar  
Russell, Karen

## 35 Years

Blanchard, Eric  
Cisneros, Jim  
Curtiss, Michael  
Eberhardt, Scott  
Fitzgerald,  
Maureen  
Gallegos, Richelle  
Henderson,  
William  
Lorenzi-Leandro,  
Lorie  
McClenahan,  
James  
Moyano, Rick  
Naipo, Derek  
Negranza, Donny  
Stouffer, Bill  
Tapella, Michael  
Youmans, Michael

## 30 Years

Fernandez,  
Latonya  
Lopes, Michael  
Nunez, Ronald

## 25 Years

Rinaldi, Shawn

## 20 Years

Berumen, Horacio

## 15 Years

Choi, Jong-Hwa  
Digne, Brian  
High, Richard  
Loughlin, Sean  
Arellano, Eduardo  
Battaglia, Vince  
De Anda, Rene  
Eckstein, Cathy  
Ellefsen, Jason  
Escobedo, Hector  
Figueiro, Eric  
Green, Damian  
Guerrero, Mark  
Ha, Cuong 'Sonny'  
Hayden, Charles  
Higgins, Susan  
Holtz, Mark  
Huynh, Thuc-Vu  
Kesson, Roberta  
Ketterling,  
Camerod  
McMillan, Jeremy  
Mendez, Heraclio  
Mendoza, Teresa  
Mendoza, Mario  
Mirelez, John  
Munoz, Margarito  
Jr.  
Nava, Louie  
Perry, William  
Picht, Shane  
Polumbus, Ida  
Pucine, Mark  
Quijada, Nelson  
Rodriguez, Isaac  
Romo, Ismael  
Salinas, Viviana  
Shear, Michael  
Sato, Valerie  
Tellez, Alfonso  
Volz, David

## 10 Years

Acosta, Jesse  
Barbosa, Veronica  
Connor, Johnny  
Cortez, Edgar  
Darone, Troy  
Ellis, Melissa  
Foss, Warren  
Frese, Karl  
Gonzales-  
Resurreccion,  
Brenda  
Guevara, Cruz  
Jose  
Guillen, Brandon  
Ha, Quyen  
Hernandez, Roger  
Julve, Arnel  
Lamaheva, Amali  
Lund, Kyle  
Morrison, Craig  
Sanderson,  
Benjamin  
Sylvia, Marco  
Vazquez, Hector  
Winters, Cory  
Yablonsky, Leonid

## 5 Years

Amar, Sedrick  
Anico, Dindo

## 10 Years

Belluomini,  
Christine  
Borge, Graciela  
Cabana, Michael  
Cabrera, Blanca  
Calderon, Robert  
Camacho Suarez,  
Jose  
Cameron, Seth  
Castellanos,  
Alberto  
Centeno, Rene Sr.  
Chan, Jeniva  
Christopher,  
Gerald  
Davalos, Aldo  
Diaz Vasquez,  
Rogelio  
Duenes, Juan  
Flores, Francisco  
Gonzalez, Luis  
Gonzalez, David  
Guerrero, Griselda  
Hill, Gordon  
Le, Steven  
Leal Jimenez,  
Pedro  
Lee, Alvin  
Lopez Betancourt,  
Francisco  
Lude, Colin  
Ly, Tien  
Machuca, Claudia  
Marotti, Chris  
Medrina, Sherry  
Ann  
Mendez, Ysidro  
Nguyen, Tuan  
Pagan, Adrian  
Reid, Norman  
Resendiz-  
Martinez, Benito  
Rojas, Francisco  
Silva, Larry  
Skaskiw, Bryant  
Sloan, Galen  
Speaks, Donovan  
Stewart, Joseph  
Taylor,  
Christopher  
Zamora, Jose Jr.



**40 Years** Front row, from left: (Dalzell) and Gary Longworthy. Back row, from left: Avinash Sing, Dagoberto Balcazar and Chris McKernan



## 35 Years

From left: (Dalzell) with Jim Cisneros

Photos by John Storey



## 25 Years

From left: Jesus Hernandez with (Freitas)



## 15 Years

From left: Eduardo Arellano and Valerie Sato



**10 Years** From left: Veronica Barbosa, Roger Hernandez and Melissa Ellis. Back row, from left: (Dalzell) and (Freitas)



# SERVICE AWARDS

## East Bay March 22, 2019



**45 Years** From left: IBEW 1245 Business Manager Tom Dalzell, Gerhard Steemers and IBEW 1245 Treasurer (now President) Cecelia de la Torre

Photos by John Storey



**35 Years** Front row, from left: Ramon Llamas, Jayne Foster and Jimmie Forester Jr. Back row, from left: Ken Kinman, Gary Lloyd and Mauro Gasparro



### 30 Years

From left: (de la Torre) with Maurice Evans



### 25 Years

From left: Sylvia Polk and Livian Ellis



### 20 Years

From left: William Stockman and Edgar Nepacena



**40 Years** Front row, from left: Michael Walko, Raymond Serna and Ira Barnes. Back row, from left: Charles Boyle and (de la Torre)



**40 Years** Front row, from left: Peggy Daniel and Adrienne Franks. Back row, from left: Samuel Pine, Dane Moore and (Dalzell)

*Congratulations on your service!*

## HONOREES

### 45 Years

Bruce, Kenneth  
Martinez, Anothony  
Ong, Jeffrey  
Rosenstrauch, Chris  
Siordia, Edward  
Steemers, Gerhard  
Villa, Ruben

### 40 Years

Abney, Charlotte  
Alexander, Melissa  
Barnes, Ira  
Bertel, Richard  
Boykin, Bruce  
Boyle, Charles  
Cervantez-Dela, Roseann  
Chetcuti, May  
Cisneros, Tony  
Daniel, Peggy  
Day, Michael  
Drozda, Joseph  
Franks, Adrienne  
Gorman, Dan  
Hogan, Loretta  
Hough, Douglas  
McCarthy, Michael  
Menges, Keith  
Mitchell, Pamela  
Moore, Dane  
Oler, Michael  
Osterlund, Joseph  
Perez, Gabe  
Phillips, Chris  
Pine, Samuel  
Ray, Larry  
Riccobuono, Glen  
Rodrigues, Lee  
Ross, Thomas  
Santos, Roger Jr.  
Serna, Raymond  
Sharp, Robert  
Singh, Avinash  
Smith, Anthony  
Smith, Glen  
Trout, Harry  
Vieira, David  
Zapanta, Luis

### 35 Years

Abarca, Olga  
Araquistain, Ignacio  
Backman, Timothy  
Bath, Raymond  
Berry, William Jr.  
Blacker, Paul  
Bogan, Richard  
Busby, Jerry Jr.  
Camins, Rodolfo  
Caviness, Patricia  
Center, Keith  
Chaney, Lloyd  
Cochran, Ronald Jr.  
Cole, Michael  
Coronado, Carlos  
Daniel, Tim  
De Graef, Timothy  
Decosta, Dave  
Delmundo, Ramon  
Diebner, Douglas  
Drennon, Carl

### 30 Years

Byrd, Paul  
Cooley, Donald  
Evans, Maurice  
Hidalgo, Christopher  
Hong, May  
Johnson, Ellis  
Kenney, Robby  
Meeker, James  
Narez, Greg  
Nolasco, Steve  
Rasmussen, Daniel  
Reed, Kevin

Durant, Davey  
Durant, Glenn  
Espindola, Mike  
Fong, Terry  
Forester, Jimmie Jr.  
Foster, Jayne  
Franco, Richard  
Gasparro, Mauro  
Henderson, Sandra  
Ho, Francis  
Kahoonei, Gary  
Kemp, Edward  
Kidd, Gilbert  
Kiley, Karen  
Killough, Rick  
Kinman, Ken  
Kliewer, James  
Knowlton, Marianne  
Koehn, William  
Kumpanao, Tinagone  
Lewis, Bruce  
Llamas, Ramon  
Llanda, Raul  
Llave, Gaylord  
Lloyd, Gary  
Longo, John  
Macias, Scott  
Martinez, Laura  
Mayo, Randy  
McRory, James  
McBride, Robert  
McCoy, Esther  
Miller, Charles  
Nielsen, Susan  
O'Byrne, Daniel  
Ong, David  
Pagan, William  
Patron, Ino  
Perez, Victor  
Quesada, Ruben  
Ray, Carey  
Raygoza, Norma  
Reliford, Joey  
Revelo, Jose  
Sensmeier, Kirk  
Smith, Steven  
Swain, Mike  
Thompson, Edward  
Tom, Johnnie  
Tonne, Ted  
Traylor, Burdette  
Urbain, Fredric  
Valencerina, Ariel  
Vallejos, Gigi  
Vigars, John  
Villalobos, Chris  
Walda, Steven  
Womble, Gordon

### 25 Years

Alvarez-Sanchez, Teresa  
Chan, Anthony  
Docto, Arthur  
Ellis, Livian  
Guerrero, Kirk  
Hoffman, William  
James, Steven  
Millery, Chantal  
Padilla, Terry  
Placencia, Donovan  
Polk, Sylvia

### 20 Years

Arroyo, Fernando Jr.  
Ballesteros, Abel  
Bell-Vaughn, Julie  
Campos, Xavier  
Cardenas, Joel  
Escobar, Jose  
Familiara, Ricardo  
Gatan, Neil  
Huey, Shawn  
Jackson, Darrell  
Nepacena, Edgar  
Ortega, Juan  
Parker, Bennie  
Ramirez, Steven  
Rodgers, Thomas  
Rodriguez, Edwin  
Sackdavong, Chantany  
Shafer, Adam  
Stephenson, Martine  
Stockman, William  
Thomas, Alesia  
Thompson, Kirk  
Velasco, Daryl  
Watson, Christopher

### 15 Years

Alvarez, Juan  
Aquitania, Gerald  
Auzenne, Georgianna  
Bailey, Anjulant  
Barabad, Jonathan  
Bates, Andrew  
Bennett, David  
Branson, Eric  
Canada, Patrick  
Chism, Michael  
Cooper, Warren Jr.  
Dale, Stephen  
D'Andrea, Brian  
De Long, Gene  
Dudley, Daryl  
Earl, David  
Fife, Robert  
Figaroa, Joshua  
Forcier, Patrick  
Graser, Anthony  
Greer, Jeffrey  
Guerrero, Jesus Sr.  
Handley, Richard  
Haywood, Jason  
Hilton, Rodney  
Hummel, Daniel

Ingersol, Steve  
Jacob, Ariel  
Jefferies, Danny  
Jones, Ryan  
Kessler, Robert  
La Macchia, Mario  
Lilley, Joseph  
Longo, Caleb  
Luu, Quyen  
Martin, Jason  
Martinez, Frank  
Matlock, Brad  
McCoy, David  
McLemore, Kevin  
Mean, Robert  
Morales, Margarito  
Moretta, Roberta  
Mun, Devin  
Ovalle, Moses  
Perez, Jorge  
Pharris, Brad  
Pineda, Rene  
Pittson, Walter  
Ramirez, Phillip  
Records, Eric  
Regan, Mark  
Roessler, Michelle  
Rubio, Adolph  
Ryan, Matthew  
Salkowitz, Thomas  
Santos, Roger  
Scalise, Cory  
Sereni, Jeffrey  
Simien, Carol  
Smith, Khalid  
Tadena, James Jr.  
Thude, Omar  
Villalobos, Carlos  
Wachtel, Geory  
Wagner, Rob  
Washington, Terrus  
Wells, Patrice

### 10 Years

Adams, Steve  
Barnard, Glen  
Blanco, Carlos  
Brooke, Stephen  
Brown, Matthew  
Calderon, Jorge  
Cheshier, Shaun  
Cuellar, John Jr.  
Daba, Woinshet  
Davis, Roderick  
Ecklind, Eric  
Erazo, Hector  
Estep, Eden  
Favela, Jesus  
Franke, Cortland  
Gallon, Tatiana  
Gamez, Jonathan  
Guzzo, James  
Hankins, Adam  
Herrera, Jimmy  
Hilsendager, Daniel  
Griffin, Benjamin  
Kasper, Roger  
Lauritsen, Nicholas  
Lin, Austin  
Lofton, Robert  
Martinez, Michael  
Martinez, Ramon  
Meisten, Justin  
Monroe, Jon  
Morataya, Edwin  
Morente, Jose

Navarro-Silva, Arturo Sr.  
Ockrassa, Donald  
Papalii, Malia  
Parks, Robert  
Pearce, Emi  
Power, Barney  
Ramirez, Moises  
Rodriguez, Abimael  
Ross, Fred  
Rubio, Albert  
Sandoval, Kyle  
Sarmiento, Jayward  
Tavare, Matt  
Taylor, Kenneth  
Thomas, Elisia  
Thompson, Jeremiah  
Uy, Dennis  
Villanueva, Ernesto  
Walsh, Deborah  
Watkins, Michael  
Wegner, Jay  
Williams, Gary  
Wilson, April  
Wiltens, Philip  
Yiannakopoulos, Vasi  
Yoo, Dong  
Zuniga, Johnny

### 5 Years

Abarca, Mark  
Aguilar, Felix  
Andrews, Luke  
Balinton, Marlon Sr.  
Band, Rebecca  
Barbosa, Jose  
Barnes, Kenneth  
Belloso, Jessica  
Best, Anthony  
Bigornia, Brian  
Blum, Jake  
Brown, Jacob  
Cadena, Jorge  
Calimlim, Rowena  
Costanza, Christopher  
Coto, Oscar  
Dart, Anthony  
De La Pena, Xavier  
Deras, Walter  
Dominguez, Ruben  
Douglas, Ray  
Dreyer, Christopher  
Erickson, Gregory  
Escajeda, Robert  
Escalante, Ralph Sr.  
Esparza, Erik  
Faria, Andre  
Fasig, John  
Favalora, Joseph  
Flores, Jorge  
Gabriel, Julie  
Garcia, Jose Jr.  
Gonzales, Gary  
Gonzalez, Rafael  
Gordon, Daniel  
Gray, Shannon  
Griffin, Monique  
Grimm, Aaron  
Gutierrez, Alberto  
Hanan, Janny  
Haynes, Willeeda  
Hendrickson, Jeffrey  
Herrera-Camarillo, Armando  
Higareda, Luis  
Hogan, Ryan  
Ibarra-Caro, Jose

Ivy, Richard  
Jaquez-Samaniego, Manuel  
Jones, Bradley  
Kellerhals, Travis  
Kendall, Patrick  
Kerr, Joshua  
Kirk, Randall  
Knepper, Dean  
Knight, Thomas  
Kolodzie, Richard Jr.  
Kondzielawa, Theodore III  
Kruse, Christopher  
Laule, Stephen  
Lee, Brandon  
Lopez, Dante  
Lopez, Steve  
Lopez-Sandoval, Jose  
Lozano, Carlos  
Madison, Bert II  
Marin, Michael  
McArthur, Tobias Sr.  
McDaniel, James  
Mee, Clifford  
Mendoza, John  
Mohebbi, Kavon  
Montalvo, Robert  
Moreno, Jesus  
Newman, Joyce  
Nickerson, Rodney  
Oliveira, Dale  
Ortiz, Cole  
Pacheco, Eric  
Padilla, Victor  
Parra, Christian  
Perez Huerta, Juan  
Perkey, Mark  
Perkins, Aaron  
Peters, Blake  
Phan, Tommy  
Powers, Ryan  
Pumphrey, Ditanion  
Quezada, Raymundo  
Rakow, Sean  
Remick, Brooke  
Ribar, Rudy  
Riley, Matthew  
Rocha, Phillip  
Rowe, Marley  
Salas, Manuel Eduardo  
Sananikone, Rattamany  
Sanchez, Rolando  
Scalia, Anthony  
Seay, Shamir  
Selby, Kyle  
Senteio, Nicole  
Shropshire, Marrison  
Silva, Michael  
Simon, Dustin  
Sinfield, Travis  
Siri, Michael  
Snow, Michael  
Tate, Shawn  
Tauasosi, Edward  
Thomas, Michael Jr.  
Thomas, Aaron  
Threde, Kristopher  
Torres, Francisco  
Trijos, David  
Urbina, Eric  
Uriostigue, Rudy  
Vazquez, Carlos  
Villaluna, Mark



**35 Years** Front row, from left: Glenn Durant, Paul Blacker and Ignacio Araquistain. Back row, from left: Lloyd Chaney, Davey Durant, William Dela Torre Lloyd and Mauro Gasparro



**35 Years** Front row, from left: Burdette Traylor, Gigi Vallejos and Daniel O'Byrne. Back row, from left: (Dalzell), (de la Torre) and Carey Ray



**15 Years**  
From left: Roberta Moretti with (de la Torre)



**10 Years** From left: Edwin Morataya, Deborah Walsh and Benjamin Jennings



**5 Years** Front row, from left: Vasi Yiannakopoulos, Rebecca Band and John Fasig. Back row, from left: Rafael Gonzalez, Travis Sinfield and (de la Torre)

Utility Reporter

## Lompoc

April 5, 2019



**5 Years** Front row, from left: Assistant Business Manager Al Fortier, Marcy Webb and Business Rep. Jaime Tinoco. Back row, from left: Jeffrey Wooten, Todd Zarkovacski and Daniel Zucker

Photos by John Storey



**5 Years** From left: Konang Sumaryadi Sr., Issac Rodriguez and Tracy Tripp. Back row, from left: Robert Stricklin, Brian Stevens and Gary Silbaugh



**5 Years** Front row, from left: Leo Ramirez, Theresa Ramos-Hernandez and Rickey Pepper. Back row, from left: Rafael Once, Ruth Poorbaugh and Jacob Kougl



**5 Years** Front row, from left: Travis Border, Justin Aguilar, Saul Chavez. Back row, from left: Andrienne Boyd, Fernando Delos Reyes and Leonard Arellanes



**5 Years** Front row, from left: Margie Hamon, Dorine Fabing and Jack Doty. Back row, from left: Andrew Hernandez, Terry Langei and William Kalin



**5 Years** Front row, from left: Danielle Morgan, Diane Najera and Theresa Luna. Back row, from left: Steve Mickelson, Ernesto Lemus and Gustavo Lopez

*Congratulations on your service!*

## HONOREES

### 5 Years

Aguilar, Justin  
Allen, Alvin  
Almada, Peter  
Arellanes, Leonard  
Barritt, Patriece  
Bedolla, Zesar  
Berrateran, Connie  
Billips, Jason  
Border, Travis  
Boyd, Adrienne  
Brade, Scott  
Bryner, Brandon  
Bustamante, Gabriel  
Calderon, Fernando  
Cannaday, Seth  
Chastain, Dennis  
Chavez, Saul  
Cousins, Marisa  
Cox, Garry  
Cox, John Jr.  
Daniel, John  
Davenport, Roger  
Davis, Sheila  
Delos Reyes, Fernando  
Dimora, Teresa  
Doty, Jack  
Drake, Dana  
Elizalde, Adan  
Fabing, Dorine  
Fast, Sam  
Fox, Bryan  
Fox, Jessica  
Garbiso, Jennifer  
Garcia, Lisa  
Garcia, Alfredo  
Ginn, Robin  
Gonzalez, David  
Gutierrez, Efren  
Hamon, Margie  
Hedricks, Meade  
Hernandez, Andrew

Heter, John  
Hilario, Luis Jr.  
Howren, Olga  
Huyck, Donald  
Jimenez, Angelica  
Kalin, William  
Keasler, Mike  
Keasler, Lesa  
Kougl, Jacob  
Langei, Terry  
Lardizabal, Lori  
Lee, Jesse  
Lemus, Ernesto Jr.  
Leyva, Manuel  
Lopez, Jose  
Lopez, Luis  
Lopez, Gustavo  
Luna, Theresa  
Macias Marquez, Delia  
Matthews, Sheri  
Mickelson, Steve  
Moreno, Juan  
Morgan, Danielle  
Morlan, Christopher  
Najera, Diane  
O'Brien, Robert  
Oliver, Deborah  
O'Neil, Sean  
Pantoja, Seferino  
Pepper, Rickey  
Peterson, David  
Ploof, Jeffery  
Poggione, Karen  
Ponce, Rafael  
Poorbaugh, Ruth  
Porter, Clinton  
Ramirez, Leo  
Ramirez, Filiberto  
Ramos-Hernandez, Theresa  
Riggs, Alice  
Rodriguez, Isaac  
Rouleau, Scott

Rupe, Jason  
Salazar, Maria  
Salazar, Saul  
Santiago, Baldomero Jr.  
Schaar, Bearet  
Scouten, Jennifer  
Segura, Amadeo  
Silbaugh, Gary  
Sitzler, Susan  
Smith, Daniel  
Stephens, Juan  
Stevens, Brian  
Stricklin, Robert  
Sumaryadi, Konang Sr.  
Tabin, Angelito  
Terrones, John  
Terrusa, Chelsea  
Thomas, Darrell  
Torres, Joe  
Tosh, Shawn  
Townsend, Brian  
Trexler, Mark  
Tripp, Tracy  
Valdez, Jose  
Velasco, Ronald  
Vickery, Tony  
Wallace, Michael  
Walsh, Sean  
Webb, Marcy  
Weigel, Cherridah  
Whitham, Patrick  
Wilks, Lawrence  
Williams, Ricky  
Wood, Sherril  
Wooten, Jeffrey  
Wynne, Shawn  
Wynne, Angela  
Zarkovacski, Todd  
Zavala, Andrew  
Zazueta, Rudy  
Zepeda, Armando  
Zucker, Daniel



## Units lend a helping hand

All of the following unit donations to various charitable organizations from April through June 2019 were approved by the IBEW 1245 Executive Board.

**Diablo Canyon Unit #1220** donated \$250 to Jack's Helping Hand of San Luis Obispo and \$250 to the Mighty Oaks Warrior program.

**Oakland Physical Unit #2318** donated \$250 to the free breakfast program at the Kyle Temple AME Zion Church.

**Mt. Wheeler Power Unit #3315** donated \$250 to Ely Outdoor Enthusiasts and \$250 to Great Basin Trails Alliance.

**Fresh Pond/SMUD Unit #3912** donated \$500 to the SMUD Annual Fishing Derby.

**Reno Unit #3311** donated \$500 to Washoe County Senior Services.

**Yerington Retirees** donated \$250 to Healthy Smiles Family Dentistry.

**Fresno Clerical Unit #1110** donated \$250 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation on behalf of Kara Yang, whose mother is an IBEW Member.

**Merced Irrigation District Unit #1122** donated \$500 to the Merced County Parks & Recreation department in support of their Annual Fishing Derby for individuals with special needs.

**Stockton Clerical Unit #2509** donated \$250 to the Benjamin Holt College Preparatory Academy's "Ben Talks" event.

**North Tahoe/CalPeco Unit #5232** donated \$166 to Northern Nevada Soccer League, \$167 to Reno American Little League and \$166 to U11 Falcons Youth Soccer Club.

**Templeton Unit #1217** donated \$500 to the Paso Robles Girls Softball League 10U All Stars.

**Concord Unit #2316** donated \$200 to the Granada Grad Night at Granada High School in Livermore.

**City of Vallejo Unit #2376** donated \$250 to the Vallejo Fireworks Fund for the July 4th celebration on Mare Island.

**Paso Robles Unit #4727** donated \$500 to Paso Robles Baseball.

**South Tahoe Unit #5231** donated \$250 to Moose Lodge 1632's Kid's Fishing Derby and \$250 to Moose Lodge 1632's Longest Day of Golf.

## Support IBEW 1245 Member Fighting Leukemia

Twenty-two year IBEW member and Organizing Steward Ruben Hernandez was recently diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML).

Brother Hernandez, who works at Trayer, is currently undergoing chemotherapy at Kaiser Oakland, and will be off work for the foreseeable future.

His family could use our support as they embark on this difficult journey.

Please donate what you can at [gf.me/u/ukbt5d](https://gf.me/u/ukbt5d).



## Support PG&E GSR As He Fights Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Just a few short months after landing his dream job as a gas service rep at PG&E, new IBEW 1245 member Todd Hurst was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma shortly before his 32nd birthday.

As Brother Hurst undergoes treatment for his cancer over the coming months, his family, including a devoted wife and two young sons, could use support to cover the cost of basic living expenses while Hurst is off work.

Please donate what you can at [gf.me/u/ukbts9](https://gf.me/u/ukbts9).



## Support IBEW 1245 Member Whose Son Passed Away

A seven-year IBEW 1245 member who wishes not to be named recently lost her 26-year-old son suddenly.

The family is still reeling from this tragedy, and could use our support to assist with funeral expenses. Read more about this young man and please donate what you can at [gf.me/u/ukbuu4](https://gf.me/u/ukbuu4).



## Support PG&E Operating Clerk Whose Daughter Was Killed in a Car Crash

Our hearts go out to 33-year IBEW 1245 member and PG&E Senior Operating Clerk Eltania "Tammy" Kinard, whose 23-year-old daughter, Taima, was tragically killed in a car accident just a few days shy of her college graduation.

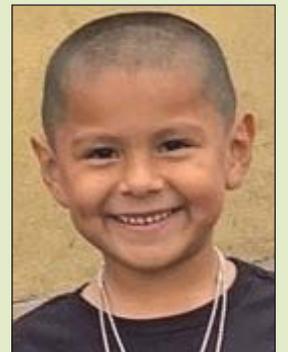
Sister Kinard and her family could use our support during this difficult time. A system-wide vacation sale has been set up for employees at PG&E, and donations can also be sent to the family using [gf.me/u/ukbu6n](https://gf.me/u/ukbu6n).



## Support IBEW Family Whose Six-Year-Old Son Was Killed in the Gilroy Garlic Festival Shooting

On July 28, the six-year-old son of an IBEW 332 apprentice was killed during the Gilroy Garlic Festival shooting. The member's wife and mother were reportedly also shot. Friends have set up a GoFundMe account to support the family as they cope with this heartbreaking tragedy, and the IBEW 1245 Executive Board has approved a \$5,000 donation to the Romero family.

This family needs all the support they can get during this difficult time. Please contribute what you can at [gf.me/u/ukbvdn](https://gf.me/u/ukbvdn).



## Former IBEW 1245 Business Rep Frank Hutchins: 1943-2019

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of former IBEW 1245 Business Rep Frank Hutchins, who passed away on May 6 at the age of 76.

In 1980, then-Business Manager Jack McNally brought Hutchins on staff upon the recommendation of trusted staffer Vernon Loveall (who passed away in 2017).

“Frank didn’t come out of PG&E, but Vernon swore he’d make a good rep, so I hired him — and it was probably best thing I ever did as Business Manager,” said McNally. “Frank was one of best reps I had, because he was the kind of guy who never rested.”

Hutchins served the members diligently for more than two decades before retiring in 2002.

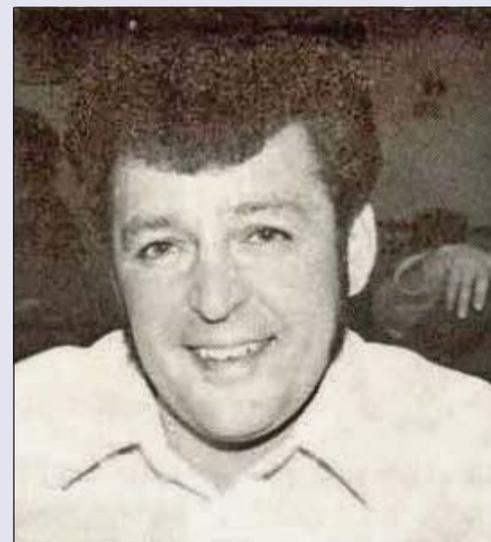
“He was extremely conscientious and extremely irreverent at the same time, the best qualities of a 1245 rep,” said Local 1245’s current Business Manager, Tom Dalzell. “He gave a lot to this local and to our members, and he made us a better organization.”

During his time on staff, Hutchins formed a close bond with colleague Ken Ball, and the two remained good friends even after Hutchins retired from the union. Ball spoke with Hutchins on the phone just weeks before his passing, and remembers him fondly.

“As a rep, he was really meticulous ... the very best at keeping up with everything, like paperwork and phone calls,” Ball recalled. “Whenever a piece of paper came in to him, it was immediately dealt with, and in the time before cell phones, he would always stop on his way home to pick up his messages. He thought the greatest thing ever was when we got phones mounted in our cars, so he could answer and return calls on the way home from unit meetings.”

Hutchins’ perfectionism was something of a blessing and a curse, as he held everyone around him to his impossibly high standards. He was also quite candid and never minced words, which on occasion would land him in hot water.

“I had a lot of fun with him, and also got into some trouble with him too,” Ball said, recalling Hutchins’ tendency to pick fights. “I remember one time at a company picnic in Fresno, a new division manager who Frank had never met before came up to him and said, ‘I hear you’re a real tough guy,’ and Frank looked at him and said, ‘I hear you’re a real a\*\*hole.’ That’s just the kind of guy he was. He didn’t take no sh\*t from no one, and he used more F bombs than I did!”



Frank Hutchins in 1981, shortly after he joined the union staff

Photo via IBEW 1245 archives

### Clearing Trees, from page 29

would begin lining the street.

The buses weren’t the only challenge they faced on that job. Much of the tree growth was situated in an alleyway, which comes with its own set of complications.

“In the alleys, it’s different from main streets, because you have all these secondary lines,” said Amezcua. “It’s harder working around service lines, phone lines and cable lines — as opposed to in the street, where you only have primary wires and you don’t have to worry about secondary lines.”

Alleys pose other dangers as well. They can be dirty and contain hazards that must be removed before the trimmers can get to work. It’s not unusual for crews to come across hypodermic needles and other perilous refuse. On occasion, Amezcua and his crew have had to call the city to come and remove the waste before they can enter the area with their trucks.



David Juarez  
Utility Reporter

Photos by John Storey

Navigating around energized lines is dangerous work, and even a routine job requires specific knowledge of the terrain, equipment, and the different types of trees on the property. No two jobs are the same, but the skilled and trained IBEW 1245 crews know how to complete a job safely and efficiently.

Amezcua has been a member of IBEW 1245 for 21 years, ever since he first hired on in the Modesto yard. He’s proud of the role he’s taken with the union for the last 12 years to assist his co-workers when needed.

“I’m the shop steward of our yard, so if somebody has a problem, they come in and talk to me,” he said. “I’ll talk to the supervisor and we try to fix it right here. And if we need it, the union rep is always behind us, giving support.”

“We’ve got a good group of guys here... and they know the union’s always here whenever they need it,” he added.



Ramon Luquin

### Despeje de árboles, de la página 29

12KV, realizando trabajo de poda rutinario en las líneas de la subestación Paradise para lograr una distancia mínima de despeje, que significa una separación de 10 pies de las líneas eléctricas. Eso es lo que requiere MID (Distrito de irrigación de Modesto),” explicó el capataz Juan Amezcua.

Aunque el tiempo es siempre vital en el trabajo de despeje de árboles bajo las líneas eléctricas, Amezcua y su cuadrilla enfrentaban una restricción de tiempo atípica en esta asignación específica. Tenían que terminar antes de que terminaran las clases del día (y ese era un día donde las clases terminaban temprano), para darle paso a los autobuses escolares que comenzarían a llegar.

Los autobuses no eran el único reto que enfrentaban en esta asignación. La mayor parte de las ramas que había que podar, estaban en callejones, lo cual en sí ya es complicado.

“En los callejones, es diferente de las calles principales porque están las líneas secundarias,” dijo Amezcua. “Es más difícil trabajar alrededor de líneas de servicios, líneas telefónicas, líneas de cable, comparado con la calle, donde solo hay cables primarios y no tienes que preocuparte de las líneas secundarias.”

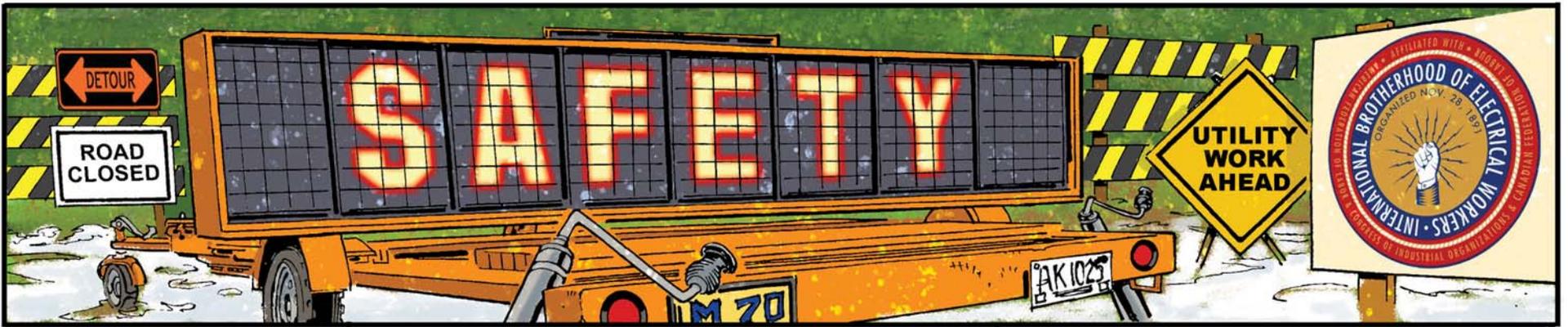
Los callejones también presentan otros peligros. Pueden estar sucios y presentar riesgos que deben eliminarse antes de que los podadores puedan empezar a trabajar. No es extraño que

las cuadrillas se encuentren agujas hipodérmicas y otros desechos peligrosos. En algunas ocasiones, Amezcua y su cuadrilla han tenido que llamar a los funcionarios de la ciudad para que vengan y retiren los desechos antes de que ellos puedan entrar a la zona con sus camiones.

Trabajar alrededor de líneas eléctricas energizadas es un trabajo peligroso, e incluso un trabajo rutinario requiere conocimientos específicos del terreno, del equipo, y los diferentes tipos de árboles en las instalaciones. No hay dos asignaciones iguales, pero las cuadrillas calificadas y capacitadas del IBEW 1245, saben cómo completar su trabajo de manera segura y eficiente. Amezcua ha sido miembro del IBEW 1245 durante 21 años, desde que lo contrataron por primera vez en el patio de Modesto. Está orgulloso de su papel en el sindicato durante los últimos 12 años, donde ayuda a sus compañeros de trabajo cuando es necesario.

“Soy el delegado de nuestro patio. Si alguien tiene algún problema, vienen y hablan conmigo,” dijo Amezcua. “Yo hablo con el supervisor y tratamos de corregirlo aquí mismo. Y si es necesario, el representante del sindicato siempre está cerca, dando apoyo.”

“Tenemos un buen grupo de compañeros aquí, y ellos saben que el sindicato siempre está aquí, para cuando lo necesiten,” agregó.



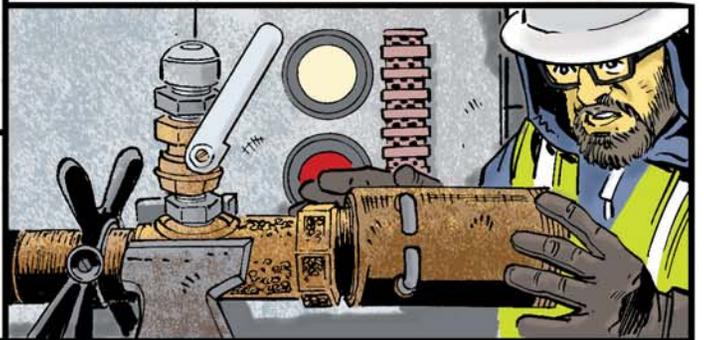
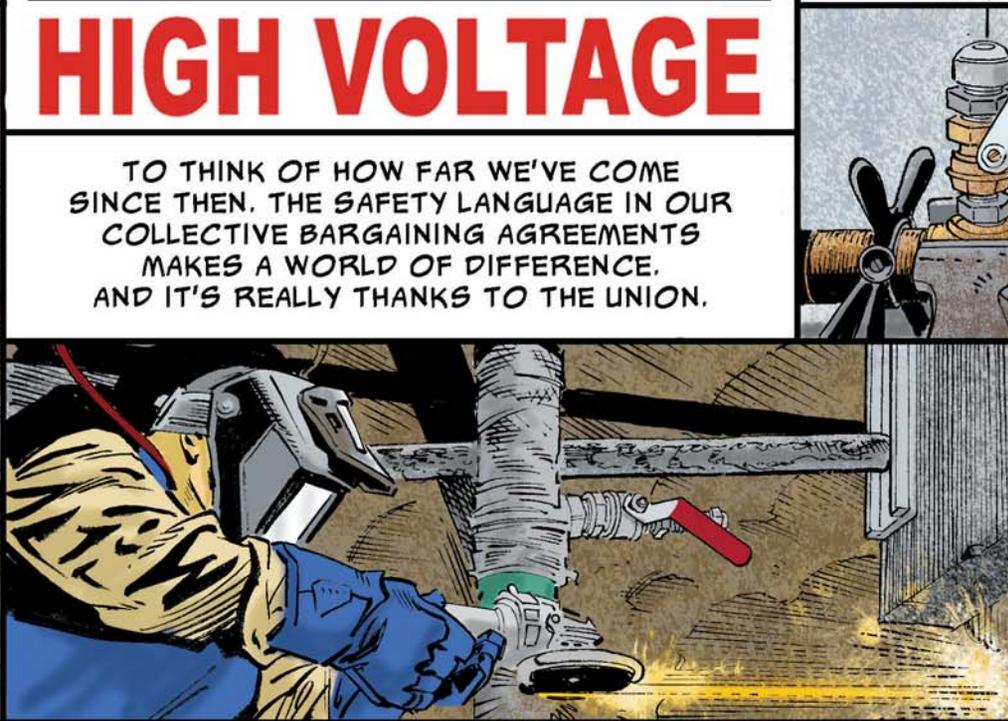
DID YOU KNOW THAT BACK BEFORE THE FOUNDING OF THE IBEW, HALF OF ALL LINEMEN WERE DYING ON THE JOB?

**DANGER**

THAT'S ACTUALLY THE MAIN REASON WHY THE IBEW STARTED BACK IN THE 1890S. OUR UNION'S FOUNDERS DIDN'T CARE ABOUT WAGES OR BENEFITS -- THEY JUST WANTED TO MAKE OUR WORK SAFER.

**HIGH VOLTAGE**

TO THINK OF HOW FAR WE'VE COME SINCE THEN, THE SAFETY LANGUAGE IN OUR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE. AND IT'S REALLY THANKS TO THE UNION.



AND WE HAVE SO MANY DIFFERENT SAFETY PROGRAMS AT IBEW 1245. LIKE THE HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE, MADE UP OF UNION MEMBERS FROM MANY DIFFERENT WORK GROUPS, AND SUPPORTED BY THE UNION STAFFERS DEDICATED TO LOOKING OUT FOR OUR SAFETY.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR SAFETY STEWARDS AND THE PEER-TO-PEER SAFETY PROGRAM. THEY HELP US FOSTER A SAFER WORK ENVIRONMENT - WITHOUT GETTING THE BOSSES INVOLVED.



I'M A UNION SAFETY STEWARD AND I'M ALSO INVOLVED IN THE "CONTROL THE PRESSURE" PEER PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS WORKING ON THE GAS SIDE, SO I'M ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR SAFETY ON THE JOB. 1245 ALSO HAS A "HOLD THE PULL" SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR ELECTRIC MEMBERS, AND "KEEP THE CLEARANCE" FOR TREE TRIMMERS.

MY COUSIN'S A 1245 TREE TRIMMER. ONE TIME HE SLIPPED AND ALMOST CUT OFF HIS LEG WITH A CHAINSAW. HE TOLD HIS SAFETY STEWARD, AND NOW HIS STORY IS ON 1245'S "CLOSE CALL" WEBPAGE, SO OTHERS CAN LEARN FROM HIS EXPERIENCE.

IN THIS JOB, ONE WRONG MOVE CAN COST YOU A LIMB -- OR EVEN YOUR LIFE. IT'S UP TO US TO LOOK OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER. WE'VE GOT TO BE OUR BROTHERS' KEEPERS.

