



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

# IBEW Local 234

## Newsletter

August 2011

### Local 234 Officers:

Ken Scherpinski  
**Business Manager/  
Financial Secretary**

Andy Hartmann  
**President/Organizer**

Chris Kiner  
**Vice President**

Mike Ihnot  
**Treasurer**

Stephen Slovacek  
**Recording Secretary/  
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Anthony Davis  
Andy Gattis  
Rick Keaton  
Richard Smith  
**Executive Board**

**The Electrical Workers Union for Monterey,  
San Benito, and Santa Cruz County**

### **Business Manager's Report** by Ken Scherpinski

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I have had many inquiries about our work situation. We are still awaiting the start of the solar project at Fort Hunter Liggett, a Baker Electric project in Monterey, some school work with local

contractors, and another solar project in Watsonville. San Jose, Local 332, has had some calls getting close to Book II. San Luis Obispo, Local 639, may be looking for help for a large solar project and for a job at Camp Roberts. There are also some jobs bidding this month in our tri-county area. Some of these are: In Shape Health Club (private), Los Arboles Lift Station (Freedom), electrical equipment install (Seaside MPWMD), Cesar Chavez Library (Salinas), Juvenile Hall VFD install (Felton), Emeline VFD install (Santa Cruz), Main Jail VFD install (Santa Cruz), airfield electrical upgrades (Marina), and the MPC Theater modernization (Monterey).

We are currently in talks with a development group for a live-work Eco Village in Marina. We want to make this an all union project. This is approximately an 80-100 million dollar project. We are also working to position our contractors to build a new \$44 million Sheriff's facility in Santa Cruz. I will continue to update you as information on these projects becomes available.

Current out of work Book I – 61, Book II – 30, Book III-5, S&C Book I – 3, and S&C Book II - 1.

I have attended two local forums presented by our Assembly members Bill Monning and Luis Alejo. These forums were a great sounding board for issues that face our industry. They also gave me the opportunity to personally ask both men to investigate the underground economy that threatens our livelihood. I also asked them to strengthen and enforce state electrical certification and to defeat threats that attack prevailing wages and fair and open bidding competition. Both of these assemblymen work hard for social justice, union values, and working families. We are fortunate to have them as our voice in Sacramento.

Please consider this a friendly reminder if you haven't re-signed. You can come by the office, call or fax between the hours of 8am-12pm and 1-5pm Monday through Friday.

The JATC is offering a variety of classes this summer that are listed in this newsletter. If you have requests for future JW upgrade classes, please call Debra Frame, the Training Administrator, at (831) 633-3063.

There is an insert in this newsletter about the upcoming annual picnic at Toro Park. I hope you and your family will be able to attend this great event. We anticipate a big turnout this year along with some special guests.

Let's hope that August will bring sunshine and a little prosperity to Local 234 and its members.



## **ABC's Sham Study Attacking PLAs Gets Debunked Even Before it is Released** by Bob Balgenorth, President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California

It looks like the anti-worker extremists at ABC have gotten too devious and underhanded for their own good.

Recently, they paid one of those right-wing propaganda outfits with a deceptively neutral name to produce a study that would show the world that Project Labor Agreements increase the cost of school construction.

They first leaked it to some sympathetic conservative journalists, a few of whom obliged them with some effortless, non-analytical parroting of the bogus findings. Then they planned a press event to tout the so-called study to the rest of the news media.

One problem with that plan: by that time, columnists, editors and reporters all around California knew the report was a bought-and-paid-for fake, and largely ignored it.

The study had purported to compare the costs of schools built with PLAs to those built without them, and of course, the authors did what they were paid to do: conclude that schools built with PLAs cost more. Hoping to add some credibility to that finding, they cited the work of previous researchers, including Dr. Dale Belman, of Michigan State University's School of Human Resources and Labor Relations. Seeing himself quoted about a topic on which he is one of the nation's foremost experts, Dr. Belman, naturally, was eager to read the new study.

He recognized some of the research as similar to his own, but the conclusion was another matter entirely and completely unsupported by the actual research! Accordingly, he immediately responded with a detailed letter to the authors.

"I find that your study's conclusion is not supported by your research; that you have overlooked important factors that affect costs, and that you have misinterpreted and drawn erroneous conclusions from my work; mistakes that I hope you will want to correct," Dr. Belman wrote.

In fact, he said, when correctly interpreted, the new research produced findings consistent with those from his own prior

research: "When appropriate controls are included for differences in the characteristics of schools built including school type and location, building specifications, materials used, etc., there is no statistical evidence that PLA schools are more costly compared to non-PLA schools."

So how did the ABC-paid "researchers" justify a different conclusion? By omitting some vitally important factors, Belman explained. For example, prevailing wage varies widely by location around the state, and tends to be higher in regions that more frequently use PLAs; some areas are required to build to higher seismic standards than others; the Los Angeles Unified School District is profoundly different from any other in the state and can't be compared in a statistically meaningful way with others; and the study illogically bundles rehabilitation, remodeling and renovation together with new construction.

In general, Belman pointed out, there are statistically meaningful differences between PLA and non-PLA schools, with PLAs generally used on more challenging and complicated projects, rather than less expensive, so-called "plain vanilla" schools.

The ABC authors conveniently opted against controlling for those factors, Belman noted, adding, "The implications from this are clear, but downplayed in the report: when the model better controls for differences in characteristics between PLA and non-PLA schools, PLAs do not affect school construction costs."

After Building Trades Councils became aware of Dr. Belman's letter, we were able to get it to California journalists who have shown an interest in PLAs before they decided whether to devote time and effort to covering this self-serving stunt. It appears not many did, because no further press coverage materialized.

ABC's sham study was effectively debunked upon arrival, and its credibility with much of the news media compromised in the process. This time, it appears, they were too devious and underhanded for their own good.

# Marina Labor Day Parade & Festival

Local 234 is looking for volunteers! If you would like to show support for Local 234 in the Marina Labor Day Parade, please contact Ken Scherpinski at (831) 594-0860.

**Saturday, September 3rd**

Parade 11am-12pm

Festival Noon-2pm

Parade begins at Reservation and Crescent Avenue and ends as the Festival begins at Marina Village Shopping Center.

For more information contact Ken Scherpinski at (831) 594-0860.



August 2011

## MBCLC Labor Day Picnic

Join fellow union members and friends of labor at the annual Monterey Bay Central Labor Council Labor Day Picnic in Santa Cruz.

**Monday, September 5th**

12-4pm ~ Music, Beverages, Displays

12:30-3pm ~ BBQ Lunch served

At DeLaveaga Park in Santa Cruz. The park entrance is located at 850 Branciforte Drive.

Local 234 has a number of tickets available for our members. Call the Hall if you would like tickets to attend. This is a great event for the whole family.

## MSCBCTC First Annual Golf Tournament

The Monterey/Santa Cruz Building and Construction Trades Council is holding it's first annual golf tournament. The tournament is scheduled for Friday, August 26, 2011. Check-in is at 7:30am with a shotgun start at 9am.

**Del Monte Golf Course**

**1300 Sylvan Road**

**Marina, CA 93940**

Food and refreshments will be provided, prizes awarded after the tournament. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Ken Scherpinski at (831) 594-0860.



## MBEVA Meeting

The next Monterey Bay Electric Vehicle Alliance Meeting is scheduled for

**Thursday, August 11th, 10 am-Noon**

IBEW Local 234, 10300 Merritt, Castroville

Agenda includes:

Featured speakers: Yong Lao, Professor Division of Social, Behavioral and Global Studies, and students Jonathan Vevoda, Michael Depedrini, Esperanza Sanchez, Jessica Vaca – will describe their project to choose locations for EV charging stations (both 110 & 220V) at CSUMB based on existing electrical infrastructure, distance to parking, and priority locations to encourage the transition to electric vehicles on college campuses, using GIS and GPS technology.

Implementation of the California Energy Commission-funded charging stations

Recent funding applications submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy and the California Energy Commission for regional EV planning and implications for MBEVA and the region.

And more – including MBEVA members' Chevrolet Volt and Nissan Leaf on display.



# JATC Training News

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Center

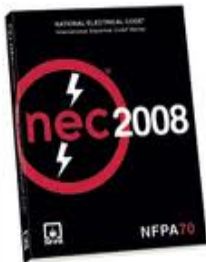
Debra Frame, Training Administrator  
831.633.3063 office  
831.633.3068 fax  
debra@tricityjatc.org

The Electrical Workers Union for Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz County



## CPR/First Aid Class

A **CPR/ First Aid** class is scheduled for **Saturday, August 6th at 8am**. Instructor Cosme Padilla, a retired Firefighter, will run you through the basics of CPR and First Aid. Whether this is your first time or you are due for a renewal, call the JATC and sign up.



## 2008 Significant Changes to the NEC

**On the second Tuesday of each month**, Instructor David Martinez will be leading the way through the Significant Changes of the 2008 National Electric Code. Drop on in! You can attend one class or many as you like in this series. Class starts at 5:30 pm. This is a three hour class. **On Tuesday, August 9th**, Dave moves into the many changes the 2008 NEC has made that are found in Chapter 3.

## CALCTP Class

The next CALCTP class is scheduled to begin on **Monday, August 8th at 7am** with Instructor Stephen Slovacek. This class will take place Monday through Friday from 7am to 3:30pm and finish up on the following Monday and Tuesday from 7am to 3:30pm. Check the calendar on Page 7 for class days and start times.

BRING PROOF OF COMPLETING THE ONLINE COURSE TO THE FIRST CLASS. Students will not be allowed to attend the class if they have not completed the online coursework.

For those that have already taken CALCTP and were interested in receiving either the lecture binder or lab binder (which were not previously available) contact Debra and let her know if you would like to receive either one of these or both.

## ISAT Class



On **Wednesday, August 17th from 5:30–8:30pm**, ISAT (International Seismic Application Technology) Engineer Jon Gregg will return to the Training Center to show us how to correctly brace our conduits for seismic activity and pass OSHPD (Hospital grade!) inspections. Sign up and learn how!

## Receive \$125 for CALCTP

Earn While You Learn! LMCC is offering a stipend of \$125 for the CALCTP (California Advanced Lighting Controls Training Program) Class. This offer is available to those that successfully complete the course which includes an online prerequisite course, ten hours of lecture, and 40 hours of labs. The stipend is also available to middle management who take the online prerequisite and attend the ten hour lecture.

It is critical that we get Journeymen and middle management to take these classes.

Get **started on the online coursework** by going to [bit.ly/IBEW234CALCTP](http://bit.ly/IBEW234CALCTP) and register with the Lighting Controls Association to take the CALCTP required online learning modules.



## New and Used Books

The JATC has an abundance of books available to members and signatory contractors. The books are no longer a part of the apprenticeship curriculum. If members or signatory contractors are interested please see Debra, the Training Administrator, at the JATC. The books are mostly NJATC publications ranging from mathematics to blue print reading to motor controls. These books will be sold at significantly reduced prices to reduce inventory.

**Deadline for purchasing these books is August 31, 2011.**

Also available for purchase are 2011 National Electrical Code books. Both softbound and the hardbound Handbook are available. The 2011 NEC Handbook is \$97.43 and the 2011 NEC softbound is \$57.91.

Please bring a check or money order, if you would like to purchase anything from the JATC. The JATC is no longer accepting cash.

## Apprenticeship Classes Gearing Up

The Inside Electrical Apprenticeship classes will begin again on

**Thursday, September 8th at 6pm.**

Classes for the 1st, 4th, and 5th years will be on Mondays and Thursdays for this school year. Classes are three hours in length, beginning at 6pm and letting out at 9pm. Attendance in class is mandatory. There will be an orientation on the first night of class to pass out books, go over the Policies, Rules, and Regulations, and to answer any questions.

Apprentices will again have a \$200 book payment they will be responsible for. Remember that raises will not be granted unless book payments are current. Payments must be made at a minimum of \$25 per month, beginning in September. Payments must be in the form of money order, cashier's check, or personal check. **Cash will no longer be accepted at the JATC.**

Apprentices please note, if you are turning in paperwork to request a raise, all documents must be complete and turned in no later than the Friday before the JATC meeting. JATC meetings take place on the third Tuesday of each month.

## NEC Code Question by necplus newsbriefs

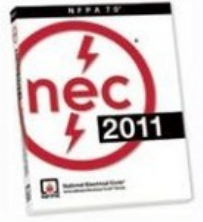
### Question:

I have recently purchased an electric vehicle and the Level 1 supply equipment is rated 125 volts, 10 amperes and is cord-and plug connected. The branch circuit supplying my garage receptacle outlets is rated 20 amperes. Can the existing garage branch circuit be used to supply the EV charging equipment?

### Answer:

Yes. The EV charging equipment is designed to be mounted in place within the garage and is therefore considered to be fastened in place utilization equipment. Per 210.23(A)(2), utilization equipment fastened in place cannot exceed 50 percent of the branch circuit rating. The 10-ampere rating of the charging equipment does not exceed 50 percent the 20-ampere rating of the branch circuit supplying the garage receptacles. If another fastened in place appliance (automatic door opener) is supplied by this circuit, the combined rating of it and the EV charger exceeds the 50 percent maximum rating specified by 210.23(A)(2).

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## Health & Welfare Address Change

There will be a new address to mail to for self payments and transmittals effective September 1, 2011. The new address is:

**IBEW Local 234 H&W Plan**  
**Department #6494**  
**PO Box 39201**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90039-0201**

This change will effect everyone having to mail in payments. Payments sent on or after September 1st should be directed to the new address to avoid delays.

Call the Hall at (831) 633-2311 or Benesys at (877) 885-3753 if you have any questions.

## Congratulations!

Rey and Tasha Ramirez welcomed a baby boy, **Reyden Ryder Ramirez** on June 19th. Reyden weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz.

Business Manager Ken Scherpinski welcomed a granddaughter, **Jillian Claire Scherpinski** on July 24th. Jillian weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz.

## 9th District Pension Plan

Mark Foster, a Senior Financial Representative with Principal Financial Group, is now available to assist members with financial planning. Mark has taken the place of James Boisse and will next be here on:

**Wednesday, August 10th at 3pm**

### **Mark A. Foster, LUTCF**

181 Metro Drive, Suite 700  
San Jose, CA 95110  
(408) 437-7220  
(925) 895-6349 cell  
(408) 437-7207  
foster.mark@principal.com

Drop ins are welcome and encouraged. However, if you would like to avoid waiting and make an appointment contact either Mark or the Union Hall to schedule a time.

## Happy AUGUST Birthdays!

Lyle Abraham  
Richard Baker  
Dan Baroni  
Joe Baxter  
Forest Bayer  
Mark Behnke  
Kenneth Boner  
Corey Branco  
Paul Brooks  
Tighe Callahan  
Robert Campbell  
Brian Carroll  
Javierto Castillo Jr  
Miguel Cervantes  
Bennett Collins  
Bryan Daniel

Daniel Day  
George Dimas  
Stephen Gilbert  
David Goddard  
Hector Haro  
Gregory Hilliker  
Richard Holm  
James Horn  
Mike Houston  
Felipe Jimenez  
Igor Malyghin  
Scott McGrath  
Robert Miller  
Joel Montes  
Jesus Morales  
John Mowery

John Radich  
Albert Randall  
David Rubens  
Peter Salvatore  
Leonard Smith  
Ronald Smith  
Everett Stevens  
Edward Sudyka  
Herman Taube  
James Taylor  
Pedro Trujillo  
Mario Vera  
Donald White  
Scott White  
Donald Wolfe  
Ralph Yniguez



Call Toll-Free  
(800) 654-1485



# This Month's Local 234 Winners!

Here are the winners from the **July** union meeting:

## C.O.P.E. (Committee on Political Education):

Susan Carter won \$20.00 and donated it back.

## Apprentice Give-Away:

Raymond Sykes won \$23.40.

## Give-Away Winners:

Mike Ihnot won an Firecracker 10K t-shirt and donated it to Andy Hartmann

Raymond Sykes won an IBEW backpack and donated it to Juan Dominguez

Chris Kiner won a Klein 11-in-1 screwdriver.



The next general membership meeting will be:

**Wednesday, August 10, 2011**  
**@ 6:30 pm**

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## Quote of the Month

*"In Washington, the air quality today was described as 'red.' I'd never heard that. 'Red,' somewhere between smog and barbeque sauce. You know what 'red' is? It's bad for everyone, not just old people, sick people and babies. When it's just bad for old people, sick people and babies, that's called a Republican budget."*

-Bill Maher, July 22, 2011

# August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 CPR @ 8am
7	8 CALCTP @ 7am	9 CALCTP @ 7am 2008 NEC @ 5:30pm	10 CALCTP @ 7am Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	11 CALCTP @ 7am MBEVA @ 10am LMCC @ 4:30pm	12 CALCTP @ 7am	13
14	15 CALCTP @ 7am	16 CALCTP @ 7am JATC @ 5pm	17 ISAT @ 5:30pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Executive Board @ 6pm	25	26	27
28 End of Pay Period	29	30	31			

# Don't Sign the "Special Interest" Ballot Petition

There is a new ballot initiative proposal that would severely limit unions' ability to collect donations from members for political purposes. This initiative, which is currently collecting signatures to qualify for the June 2012 ballot, is even more dangerous than previous "paycheck deception" initiatives that have been defeated in the past. It expressly prohibits workers, both public and private sector, from making voluntary political contributions through payroll deduction, and creates a new set of rules that make it even more difficult for workers to fight corporate power and influence politics.

Like Prop. 226 in 1998 and Prop. 75 in 2005, this new initiative targets unions in an effort to silence the voices of members in politics. The opposition has learned from their past mistakes and tightened the current initiative to make it less vulnerable to counter arguments.

The proponents, primarily wealthy Orange County Republican activists, have raised more than \$1 million so far. There's no doubt the threat is real.

Proponents are framing the new initiative as an attack on special interests in politics. In effect, this measure would only impact union members while allowing corporations to continue to spend freely to push their agenda. This is a potentially devastating measure that would detrimentally impact all workers in California.

**If someone solicits you trying to collect a signature, don't sign the "special interest" ballot petition.**



## International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
IBEW LOCAL 234  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CASTROVILLE, CA  
PERMIT NO. 410

IBEW Local 234  
10300 Merritt Street  
Castroville, CA 95012

(800) 499-4239  
(831) 633-2311  
(831) 373-1411  
(831) 633-0570 fax  
(831) 633-3063 JATC  
(831) 755-2313 Jobline

[thehall@ibew234.org](mailto:thehall@ibew234.org)

[www.ibew234.org](http://www.ibew234.org)



ibew234

[www.tricountyjatc.org](http://www.tricountyjatc.org)

«field1» «field2» «field3»

«field4»

«field5»

# **IBEW 234**

Cordially invites you and your family

## *Annual Picnic*

**Saturday, September 24, 2011**

Toro Park, Buckeye Picnic Area

in Salinas Off Hwy 68

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Barbecue at 12 noon**



Please RSVP by Friday,  
September 16th with the IBEW  
Office to receive your free parking  
pass (831) 633-2311 or  
(800) 499-4239

### *Games and Activities*

Drawing for Prizes  
Pony Rides  
Jump House  
Face Painting

**Congratulations! The following  
members will be receiving a  
service award this year**

**60 Years**

John Mowery  
Leonard Smith

**45 Years**

Bryce Fuller  
James McGill  
Joseph G. Olaeta  
David R. Rubens

**40 Years**

Joseph W. Antoni  
Brian L. Sansom

**25 Years**

Adrien R. Antosz  
Mark W. Dybdahl  
William D. Hughes  
Melvin E. Nevin  
Alan M. Replogle  
Juan A. Rodriguez  
Jack Russo  
Aaron J. Selbicky

**15 Years**

Scott R. Alton  
Jeremy Bigman  
James E. Brown  
Eugene Davis  
Craig Eddy  
Daniel Fernandez  
Chris Franklin  
Heath R. Guaracha  
David J. Karalius  
Tony Pacheco  
Adalberto Padilla  
Richard Zeman

**55 Years**

Horace R. Battaglia  
Helmut C. Buse  
Terry A. Currence  
Burnett J. Dougherty Jr.  
Malcolm C. Gayman  
Johnnie La Mascus  
Paul R. Mahler  
Barney J. Neufeld

**35 Years**

Patrick J. Cotter

**20 Years**

Anthony D. Davis  
Richard G. Hoerger  
Alan Minami  
Heber L. Tuazon  
Ralph G. Yniguez

**10 Years**

Brandon Alvarez  
Christopher Ayala  
L. Earl Davis  
Jeremy Freitas  
Andrew G. Gattis  
John I. Green II  
Mark Hiura  
Anthony Kalstrom  
Rick Keaton  
Robert Paz  
Reynold Ramirez  
George L. Sandman  
Jonathan Stanley  
Kevin H. Trinh  
Paul A. Velasquez

**50 Years**

Frank Bigham  
Akio Idemoto  
Lawrence H. Mellick  
Patrick G. Selfridge  
Raymond D. Taber  
James R. Wallace

**30 Years**

James C. Bennett  
William C. Cannon  
Mark D. Clough  
Bradley S. Conger  
Cynthia M. Dzendzel  
Michael M. Freeman  
Kirk L. Morrison  
Dana E. Saccullo  
Peter D. Salvatore  
Michael C. Stone

**5 Years**

Christopher Burditt  
Ruth A. Dean  
Juan Dominguez  
Bronson J. Huerta  
Tony Lazaro  
Steven G. Luiz  
Scott M. McGrath  
Jose I. Melgarejo  
Jose Recio Jr.  
Keith Rudd  
William Rust  
Carlos Segura