



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

IBEW Local 234

Newsletter



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

February 2011

Business Manager's Report by Ken Scherpinski

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

There was an interesting article that came out recently; a joint statement from the President of the AFL-CIO and the President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Their plea to Democrats and Republicans in Congress was to support

President Obama's plan to invest in America's infrastructure such as building roads, energy systems and schools. These projects not only create jobs and demands for businesses, they are the investment our country needs to compete in a global economy.

I have seen an increase of traveling brothers stopping in to sign our books from as far away as Chicago and New York. The work picture is still slow throughout the state. We currently have 59 on book 1, 48 on Book II, 3 on Book III. On the Residential books we have 2 on Book I, 3 on Book II and on the Sound & Comm. books we have 3 on Book I and 3 on Book II.

With the backing from our LMCC (Labor Management Cooperative Committee) we have gained another victory over a contractor trying to gain an unfair advantage. Sharp Engineering & Construction Inc., a non union contractor who thought they didn't have to file for apprentices, completed a project at Lake Nacimiento. In this recent judgment against Sharp Engineering, the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (D.A.S.) concluded there was a failure to file a Public Award Contract notification, request a registered apprentice, and pay training funds on this project. The contractor did pay the D.A.S. \$1350 but more importantly, the settlement can be used in bid

protests with awarding bodies or prime contractors. Any future violations found on this contractor will be considered knowing and willful and will carry stiffer monetary penalties. Although I prefer these jobs go to our contractors and when they do not our next step is to make sure the job is done according to the same rules honest contractors abide by.

I recently attended a labor law conference. The workshops were well organized and included information on a variety of topics ranging from the NLRB, employment law, the family medical leave act, and how to influence neutral employers. I want to share one case presented that I thought would be interesting: Ross vs. Raging Wire Telecommunications Inc. Mr. Ross accepted a job with RWT and part of the term of employment was a pre drug test. Before the test, Mr. Ross acknowledged the use of marijuana for medical reasons. Of course the test came back positive. Mr. Ross was fired and filed a lawsuit claiming failure to reasonably accommodate for his disability. The California Supreme Court denied his lawsuit stating a company is not required, under the state disability laws, to accommodate an employee for medical marijuana.

I will be discussing the topics of interest for the upcoming contract during the general body meeting on February 9th. I am always open to suggestions and welcome all topics for discussion during this time. I look forward to seeing you there at 6:30.

Lastly, a friendly reminder about February 14th which is a nice time to say thank you in your own special way. We will also be celebrating President's Day on February 21st, a Monday holiday.

Best wishes and health to you and your family.

Protecting the Inspectors: A proposed revision would include inspection among the tasks covered by NFPA 70E

by Jeffrey S. Sargent

Section 90.1 of NFPA 70E, *Electrical Safety in the Workplace*, says that the primary purpose of the standard is “to provide a practical safe working area for employees relative to the hazards arising from the use of electricity.” The tasks covered by the standard include the installation, operation, maintenance, and demolition of electric conductors, electric equipment, signaling and communications conductors and equipment, and raceways.

Absent from these tasks, ironically, is inspection, meaning that the scope of the standard does not cover electrical inspectors, whose job is to ensure public safety.

It is not unusual for electrical inspectors to be in the vicinity of exposed, energized electrical conductors or circuit parts while performing their duties. In fact, inspectors could be inside the limited approach boundary and, in some cases, may cross into the restricted approach boundary. Depending on the equipment being inspected, it is likely an inspector could also be within the arc flash boundary without the appropriate level of personal protective equipment.

Exposure is eliminated provided the inspection is performed on equipment that has been placed in an electrically safe work condition. But is that always feasible? The need for some inspections to be conducted on energized electrical equipment must be reconciled with the fundamental rule of NFPA 70E, which calls for tasks to be performed on de-energized equipment. Only where it can be demonstrated that turning the equipment off introduces additional hazards, or is somehow infeasible, does the standard permit the tasks to be performed on energized equipment.

Read the full article at necplus.org at <http://goo.gl/WechHW>

Trick of the Trade

How to Enlarge an Existing Hole with a Hole Saw



What if you have to enlarge a hole and no KO set is available? Using the appropriate size hole saw cut a hole in a scrap piece of wood, then place that piece of wood over the smaller hole you want to enlarge. Clamp it securely in place and then drill the new larger hole. The scrap piece of wood will keep your hole saw from running and will result in a clean cut hole.

Coastal Rail Trail is Funded

In Sacramento on Wednesday, January 20th, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved funds to buy the 32-mile coastal rail corridor in Santa Cruz County that runs from Davenport to Watsonville. Public ownership of the corridor will allow for a rail-with-trail system that could be the heart of alternative transportation in the county and allow for train connections to emerging rail systems throughout the state and nation. The contract of sale with Union Pacific will be finished by April 1st.

The 10-to-1 vote happened in large part due to a campaign directed at CTC staff and Commissioners over the past month, after we learned that the purchase was in doubt. The County Board of Supervisors, coordinated by John Leopold, led the campaign, assisted by the diligent work of the staff of the County Transportation Commission. In Sacramento, the campaign depended on the critical assistance of Senator Joe Simitian and his staff, as well as the active support of Assemblymembers Bill Monning and Luis Alejo, and the Central Labor Council.

Union Plus Benefits Available to You

February 2011

Union Plus tailors its programs to the needs and interests of working families. Union Plus, which takes pride in responding to the needs of union members, offers a number of programs that reflect today's difficult economy. Through the Union Plus Credit Counseling program, union members can access free credit and budget counseling either on the phone 24/7 or in person at more than 100 locations nationwide. You do not need a Union Plus Credit Card to use this benefit. The free session includes:

- Complete financial review, budget analysis and credit management counseling;
- Assistance in budgeting, or advice on sources of additional income;
- Advice on how to work with creditors;
- A written action plan that summarizes your financial situation, provides a budget and timeline for reaching your debt management and repayment goals and restates actions items; and
- Referrals to social service organizations in your area, if appropriate.

For those who need additional assistance, a debt management plan (DMP) is available. The DMP allows participants to make one monthly payment to the provider of the credit counseling program, who in turn pays all creditors. Union Plus waives the set-up fee for union members for an initial DMP. After the first year of successful participation, 12 months of DMP fees are reimbursed to union members.

The Union Plus Credit Card Difference:

- Exclusive union member rates and benefits. Apply for the card online and get a response in as little as 30 seconds.
- Special financial hardship protections, including a disaster relief fund and grants for laid-off, striking and disabled members
- All customer service calls answered in the United States - 1-800-622-2580 available 24-hrs/day or 1-800-522-4000 to apply
- Special union member advocate who helps with issues and concerns when you need additional help
- Program funds the Union Plus Scholarship for union members and their dependents
- Card members automatically eligible for over 20 discounts, including travel discounts, ConsumerReports.org deals, AT&T wireless and more

The Union Plus Mortgage Difference:

Unique mortgage assistance exclusively for union families: Unemployment/disability and strike benefits to help you make mortgage payments when you're out of work

- The mortgage assistance program has provided over \$7.3 million in interest free loans to union members, helping them keep their home loans current.
- Closing costs are kept down by capping non-third party fees at \$100. Fees from other lenders range from \$500 to over \$1,000.
- Buy your first home using Union Plus and earn a \$500 gift card for a union grocery store near you.
- To apply, call 1-800-416-5786 - all calls are answered in the U.S. - or find a branch location near you.
- Facing financial hardship and getting behind on your mortgage payments? Contact the **Save My Home Hotline** at 1-866-490-5361.

Learn about these benefits and more available to Union Members at www.unionplus.org

Information Changed?

Has any of your information changed? Keep the Hall up to date. If any of your information needs updating, let us know. New address, phone number, married, dependants, etc. Call or stop by the Hall to update your information.





JATC Training News

By Ed Sudyka

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Center

Ed Sudyka, Training Director
Debra Frame, Admin. Asst.
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The Electrical Workers Union for Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz County

UPCOMING CLASSES AT THE TRAINING CENTER, CASTROVILLE

GENERATOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

Who they gonna call when the power goes out? An electrician, of course! But, do you know anything about how to get a generator running again? Come and learn about it from a generator guru, Terry Currence, on Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 5:30 p.m. If you haven't already, call and let us know you'll be there.. 633-3063.



*DATE
CHANGED!*



*DATE
CHANGED!*

Leviton will be here in February, but the **date** has been **changed** to **Monday, Feb. 28 at 6:00 p.m.** Leviton is bringing us information about the following products that they offer: Lighting control panels, submetering equipment, EV Charging stations, wireless (gasp!) occupancy sensors, Wet Guard products, cam, pin and sleeve connectors, mechanical interlocks, power switches and a new slim design GFCI. Come on down and get familiar with the newest devices you may be called upon to install on the job.



Wednesday, March 16, at 5:30 p.m., Southwire / Maxis will be pulling into our parking lot with a 16 foot trailer loaded with pulling gear and tools. They'll be here to demonstrate their products and showing us how to 'git 'er done!

Plan on attending this hands-on informative evening, and get yourself a couple more CE hours for your State Certification renewal! Call to let us know you'll be here... 633-3063



Advanced Lighting Controls

Lamp & Ballast
Line Voltage
Low Voltage
Dimming
Occupancy Sensors
Photosensors
Advanced Controls



CALCTP

It's not too late! To sign up for the next California Advanced Lighting Control Training Program (CALCTP) training course to be offered here, that is! But don't delay, there is only room for 8 students and the first 8 folks that finish their 10 hours of online coursework will grab those seats.

Point your web browsers to <http://bit.ly/IBEW234CALCTP> and do the online coursework that has 10 CALCTP written next to it. Print out your certificates of completion and bring them in to save your seat. This next class is expected to begin in early April.

Contractors will need to hire CALCTP certified electricians to perform grant funded lighting retrofits. Be one, be hired!

What is this strange assortment of boxes, lights and meters? And why is that light bulb burning soooo brightly? That's because it's a trainer board built to demonstrate what happens when you open a neutral in a three wire circuit!

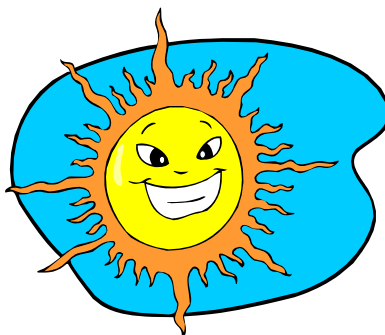
I'd love to get one built for our Training Center. I'll supply the parts, if I can get someone out there to supply the labor! You can build it here, or build it at home at your convenience. There's other projects around here to do as well, if you have time.

Give Ed a call at 633-3063! Thanks!



Need CPR/First Aid recertification? Call us to let us know, so we can get a class on our calendar in late February or early March!

The IBEW California Solar Photovoltaic Certification class and exam will also take place later this month or early March. If you haven't signed up, please call us!



The 2008 National Electric Code is now being widely adopted. There are many "Significant Changes" to this edition of the NEC. For instance, did you know that the term "Neutral" has been replaced? To learn what these changes are, call to sign up for our 2008 Significant Changes class coming soon!

Basic Dues Increase

Basic Dues for IBEW Local 234 members have increased effective January 1, 2011. The Basic Dues are now \$30 per month for "A" members. "BA" members are \$16 per month. This is according to the IBEW Constitution and Local 234's Bylaws. This is the final scheduled increase. Remember it is your responsibility to keep your Dues current. Call the Hall if you have any questions.

Local 234 Scholarship Essay Contest

IBEW 234 is again offering three (3) \$500 scholarships to high school graduates – one each in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito County-who will graduate during the current school year and who meet all qualifying criteria.

To apply, a student must have at least one present or past union member, of any affiliation, in his or her immediate family and type an essay of approximately 500 words on one of the following topics:

- What is the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and what has it done to enhance organized labor?
- Why is the organized labor movement important in the United States today?
- How has the union movement played a key role in the life and well-being of my family member who is or was in a union?

Essays must be typed and received with a completed Application Form by Friday, March 11, 2011. More details at www.ibew234.org.

Manage Your Finances

Get the help of a Financial Representative

Wednesday, February 16th, 3-6pm

James Boisse, a Financial Representative with Principal Financial Group, will be at the Hall to provide financial assistance. Contact him if you would like to set up an appointment; however, no appointment is necessary.

James Boisse

Development Director

(408) 437-7245

boisse.james@principal.com

www.principal.com/centralcalifornia

Happy FEBRUARY Birthdays!

Anders Baer
George Brandt
James Brown
Stanley Chen
Steven Foster
Ira Franklin
Erik Fritz
Daniel Gilbertson
Richard Giovannoni
Jonathan Goddard
Steve Guyton
BJ Heading

Clayton Joseph
Rick Keaton
James McGill
Alan Minami
Kirk Morrison
Joshua Murray
Armin Neubert
Michael Nickals
Ryan Perryman
Richard Regier
Paul Rivas
Paul Rivera

Gerard Rogers
Keith Rudd
Ray Sahlberg
Robert Scardina
Carlos Souza
Theodor Teman
Per Trondhjem
Heber Tuazon
Derek Webster
Peter Willis

Principal

**Financial
Group**

Call Toll-Free
(800) 654-1485



This Month's Local 234 Winners!

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

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

Stefan Marceron won \$19 and donated it back.

Apprentice Give-Away:

Raymond Sykes II won \$23.40.



Give-Away Winners:

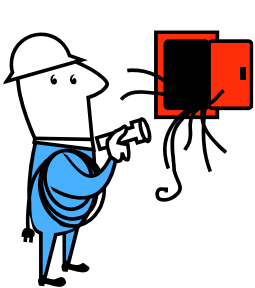
Manuel Valdez won a 6" No-Dog level.

Stefan Marceron won a t-shirt coupon donated by Mark Clough.

Quote of the Month

*A house divided
against itself
cannot stand.*

*- Abraham
Lincoln*



The next general membership meeting will be:

Wednesday, February 9th, 2011

@ 6:30 pm

February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 LMCC @ 4pm CALCTP @ 5:30pm	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday
13	14 Valentine's Day	15 JATC @ 5pm	16 Generators @ 5:30pm	17	18	19
20 End of Pay Period	21 HOLIDAY President's Day	22	23 Executive Board @ 6pm	24	25	26
27	28 Leviton @ 6:00pm					



2011 Pocket Calendars!

The 2011 weekly pocket planners are available for pickup at the front counter of the Union Hall. These calendars are free to members. The front cover has contact information for both the IBEW 234 and the JATC. The calendars are great for keeping a daily log or storing information in the cover such as your Electrical Certification or OSHA card. Stop by the Hall to pick up your free 2011 pocket calendar.

CALCTP Biz Dev Class

The CALCTP Business Development class was held for contractors at Local 234 on Friday, January 21. The intensive one day course is a requirement and ultimately a certification for contractors that want to pursue lighting retrofit work. There are two other components that electrical contractors must satisfy in order to go after this type of work. The second part is that the certified electricians that work for the contractor go through the 50 hour class which we are now offering at the Training Center. The 50 hour class is comprised of 10 hours of lecture and 40 hours of hands on labs. The third requirement for contractors is for their upper management to attend the 10 hours of lecture that make up the 50 hour class. Once all three criteria are fulfilled the contractor will be eligible to bid and perform lighting retrofit projects.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234



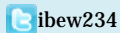
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www.tricountyjatc.org

«field1» «field2» «field3»

«field4»

«field5»