



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

IBEW Local 234

Newsletter

June 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/
Registrar**

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 & Sisters,
Congratulations are in order for our graduating Inside 5th year apprenticeship class. The names of our future journey-level electricians are noted on the inside of this newsletter. Although the years of class time and hard work may have seemed

endless, it must be very gratifying to complete a life changing experience that will lead to many future opportunities. I wish the entire class of 2011 a rewarding and prosperous career.

There will be a solar project starting in about 5 weeks with InterMountain Electric at Fort Hunter Liggett. This project should last through the summer and there is potential for more solar work to come from it. Please call my office if you are interested. We need to have a list ready because background checks need to be done before you can work on the base. Also, there may be a manufacturer's certification required for installing the solar panels. I have been working with the contractors to try and set up the certification classes at the JATC to make us job ready. This is a Zone "B" job. For those of you that take this job, you will need a current driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance to get onto the base.

I have also been notified that Rosendin will be doing their school solar projects in Hollister this summer. I hope to get some San Benito County 234 journeymen and apprentices on these projects.

Stephen Slovacek, with assistance from Local 332's former JATC Training Director Don Dixon, have successfully helped eight more journeymen complete the CALCTP class. These members have added another

unique skill to their resume. I strongly encourage you to complete the online pre-requisite course at bitly.com/IBEW234CALCTP. Then immediately sign up for the 50 hour lecture/hands-on training class through our JATC. The next class starts on June 11th. Remember, as added encouragement there is a \$125 stipend available from the LMCC to those that successfully complete the course. I welcome your suggestions for future JW upgrade classes. Courses that you find interesting might also attract fellow members. Send in your ideas.

Starting this month the new journeyman evaluation to qualify for Book 1 status will be implemented. The new evaluation will consist of a written exam and 4 hands-on modules. You must complete and pass 4 out of 5 components to qualify as JW. This applies to any current Book 3, Book 4, and all incoming, potential members. This new evaluation procedure is identical in all Locals throughout the Ninth District. I am available to answer any questions for those affected by this change.

I would like to put out a request for a grant writer. If anyone has any experience with grant writing or could refer someone, contact my office. With a little assistance in this dire economy, we could pursue various grants to generate our own work and put unemployed members back to work. Anyone's help would be greatly appreciated.

The Artichoke Festival was held this past month, enjoying much of the same success as in past years. Our local union has been re-establishing the commitment to participate by volunteering to set up all temporary power for the variety of vendors working the two day event. Special thanks to Stephen Slovacek, Chris Burditt, Stephen Marceron and Mike Rodda for setting up and ensuring reliable power for this year's festival.

I wish you and your families a safe and healthy summer.



IBEW
... the right choice

Picture it! Safe Workplaces for Everyone Photo Contest

Submit your image of workplace safety and health

May 2 – August 12, 2011

In celebration of it's 40th anniversary, OSHA
announces the Picture It! SafeWorkplaces



The contest challenges anyone with a passion for photography to capture an image of workplace safety and health and share it with OSHA. The goal of the contest is to kick off a national collaboration that relies on your talent, imagination and creativity to raise awareness of workplace safety and health. Healthier Workers. Safer Workplaces. A Stronger America.

Submit your photo at:

www.osha.gov/osha40/photo-contest.html

9th District Pension Plan

James Boisse is no longer working for the Principal Financial Group. Principal is in the process of finding a replacement for him. When the new Financial Representative is available we will let you know. In the meantime, if you have any questions about your 9th District Pension Plan, call the 9th District Pension Plan at **(800) 804-2385** or Principal Financial Group at (800) 654-1485.



Call Toll-Free
(800) 654-1485

Study Proves Prevailing Wage Saves Costs; Increases Employment and Economic Growth

A new study from Working Partnerships USA, and funded by the construction industry, has found that the payment of prevailing wage on public works projects in San Jose has provided an array of economic benefits to the region while actually lowering overall construction costs. This study should be of great value in battling the misleading ABC arguments about labor cost savings from lower hourly wages.

The study, conducted by Colorado State University, Pueblo Senior Economist Kevin Duncan concluded that over the past five years, San Jose's prevailing wage policy added \$164 million in economic activity, produced \$1.9 million in local tax revenue, and generated more than 1,500 local construction jobs.

Further, an "apples-to-apples" comparison of two public library projects in Santa Clara County – the Mitchell Park Library in Palo Alto built without prevailing wage, and the Gilroy Public Library built with prevailing wage – found a significant overall cost savings, due to greater productivity, when prevailing wage was paid: Gilroy's \$326 per square foot to Palo Alto's \$430. Further, the benefits to the local economy were far greater in Gilroy, where 71 percent of the project value went to local contractors, compared to only 12 percent in Palo Alto.

The study found a significant "ripple effect" economic benefit to the local economy when prevailing wage was paid, beneficial social impacts due to lower public assistance costs, and traffic and environmental benefits resulting from the decrease in commuting miles from the greater use of local workers.

The entire study can be found at www.wpusa.org.

Help Tom Morello Help Workers by Liz Shuler

June 2011

Do you remember the last time a leading recording artist put out a labor EP? And do you remember one ever donating the proceeds entirely to the cause of workers' struggles at a critical moment—or any time?

I don't either. So I'm asking for your help to promote this information far and wide by sending e-mails to all your lists and helping promote this information online.

Our friend Tom Morello (AKA The Nightwatchman, formerly of Rage Against the Machine), the artist who has inspired audiences across the country, is releasing an exclusive, full album of union songs as an EP. Additionally, all the proceeds are going to help workers wage a heroic fight for their rights in state battles through **SaveWorkers.org** (the America Votes Labor Unity Fund).

Tom even has allowed us to download an exclusive, never-been-heard-before song for free before the album comes out. This is an easy way for us to capture e-mail addresses and grow the movement.

Watch the music video and download the free song at www.SaveWorkers.org.

Once you've watched the video, please help circulate this info to all your e-mail lists, share the song on Facebook, Tweet about it and embed the download widget on your website, blog, Facebook page and more.

This offer couldn't come at a better time. It's a great way not only to raise critically needed funds but also to build momentum and reach a popular audience with our message.

Thank you for all you can do to help Tom Morello help workers—and all you do every day.

Liz Shuler, Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO

Health and Welfare Updates

LIFETIME MAXIMUM CHANGED TO ANNUAL MAXIMUM

Effective as of June 1, 2011, the Health and Welfare Plan's lifetime maximum benefit of \$1 million per person is eliminated. There is **no longer a lifetime maximum**. In its place, there is an **annual** maximum benefit of \$1 million for 2011. This amount may increase in future years.

DEPENDENT CHILDREN COVERED TO AGE 26

Effective June 1, 2011, the Health and Welfare Plan is extending coverage to dependent children of Participants up to age 26.

Individuals with dependent children under the age of 26 are eligible to enroll in the IBEW Local 234 Health and Welfare Plan. Plan participants may request enrollment for such children for 30 days from the date of notice (recently sent in the mail). Enrollment will be effective retroactively to June 1, 2011.

Dependent children are not eligible to participate in the Plan if they are eligible to enroll in the child's own employer-sponsored health plan or if your child is married and is currently enrolled in his or her spouse's employer-sponsored plan.

Completed forms must be received by June 15, 2011. Forms are available for download at **www.ibew234benefits.org** or by contacting Benesys at (408) 588-3753.



JATC Training News

By Ed Sudyka

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Center

Ed Sudyka, Training Director
Debra Frame, Admin. Asst.
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trainingibew234@sbcglobal.net

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

Congratulations to the Graduates of the Apprentice Class of 2011!

The following apprentices have now completed their 5 year Inside Apprenticeship schooling, and will be honored at their graduation ceremony on June 10 at the La Playa Hotel in Carmel:

Abraham Lamont Adams, Jr.	Sergio Castillo	Nicholas Castillo
Peggy Evans	Devon Fehn	B.J. Heading
Bronson Huerta	Michael Kulich	Dave Mason
Philippe Miccoli	Joshua Murray	Omar Padilla
Jose Recio, Jr.	Paul Rivera	Gabriel Rodriguez
Raymond Sykes II		Moises Zuniga

**Congratulations
Graduates!**



**Job
Well
Done!**

Earn While You Learn! Even Journeyman can do it! LMCC stipend of **\$125** for CALCTP (California Advanced Lighting Controls Training Program) Class is now available!



That's right! NECA and the IBEW are so serious about making sure that we have a trained workforce ready to perform lighting retrofits that they are willing to provide a stipend of **\$125.00** for any member with CA State Electrical Certification that successfully completes the CALCTP class!

The next CALCTP class is geared for those on the out of work list, as it will be a "Day Class". It begins at 7 a.m. on Saturday, June 11, will meet Monday evening, 6/13 and then back to 7- 3:30 from Tues. 6/14 through noon Tues. 6/21 (no class the weekend of 6/18 and 6/19). There are still some openings in this class but the 10 hours of online prep work must be done first.

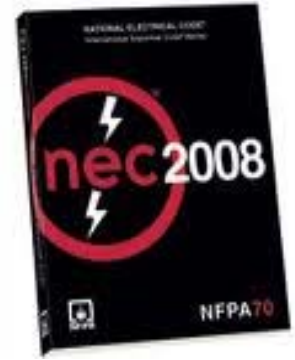
Get **started on that online coursework** by going to <http://bit.ly/IBEW234CALCTP> and register with the Lighting Controls Association to take their CALCTP required online learning modules. Following this class, we want to put on an **evening and Saturday** CALCTP class for those of you who are fortunate enough to have employment at this time. This class will likely start near the end of June. Call our JATC office and sign up, and you will be notified when the schedule is finalized.

DON'T DELAY...SIGN UP TODAY! And, **if you have any questions**, call Debra or Ed at the Training Center in Castroville... 633-3063

Summertime, and the classes are easy! Check these out if you need continuing education hours or just job knowledge!!

2008 Significant Changes to the NEC... class three!

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 in this series. Class starts at 5:30 p.m. and on June 14 Dave will be covering the changes to Articles 215, 220, 225, 230 and 240. On July 12, Dave moves into the many changes the 2008 NEC has made that are found in Article 250.



Variable Frequency Drives (VFD)

On Wed. 7/20 and Thurs. 7/21, at 5:30, Todd Poffenbarger from Central Wholesale (now Alameda Electric) Supply house will be teaching us all about VFD's and how to properly size, install and protect them correctly and up to the proper code standards.

This will be a great two evening class to help round out your experience as an electrician. VFD's are used extensively in industrial and commercial settings to provide starting and stopping and speed control of motors of all sizes and in many diverse applications.

Call the JATC office (633-3063) and sign up for this informative and useful class!



INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC APPLICATION TECHNOLOGY

"We meet or exceed all building code requirements"

Coming on Wed. August 17 at 5:30 p.m.: 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! 633-3063.

CPR/ First Aid sign ups are being taken! We are looking to hold a class as soon as at least 10 folks sign up. We currently have 5 on the list... check your CPR certification card! You may need this class to keep current! And, did you know that CPR guidelines have changed? Take this class and find out! 633- 3063.



OSHA 10/30

We don't have the dates yet, but OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 classes will be offered sometime this summer here in Castroville. The OSHA regulations have changed and require that the OSHA classes cannot be taught longer than 7 1/2 hours in any given day. As a result, these OSHA classes will take several days/evenings.

Call us at 633-3063 to sign up!

AND FINALLY... this is the last JATC newsletter article you'll see from me, at least for now! In these difficult times, the JATC has decided to restructure, and is suspending the Training Director position. It's been a good run, and I'd like to express my appreciation for all the help I've had doing this job from my teachers, my admin Debra, the Committee that runs the program, and especially to all you out there, JW's and apprentices alike, who believe in the value of education! Who knows, maybe I'll see some of you in a class at the training center, or on the job in the near future! Until then, the Committee will keep the JATC office staffed by Debra, so don't hesitate to call and sign up for those classes that you see advertised here! Thanks! Ed Sudyka

Union Plus Job Loss Grant

BENEFIT DESCRIPTION

\$250 payment to Union Plus Credit Card holders who have recently been laid off.

REQUIREMENTS

- You must be a union member or have been a union member at the time of job loss.
- You must be a Union Plus Credit Card holder for at least one year.
- Your account must be in good standing – in other words, your payments must be up-to-date.
- You were involuntarily laid off from your job within the last twelve months.
- You have been continuously unemployed for 90 days or more due to an involuntary layoff.

NOTE: The lost job protection credit card payment is designed for union members who have involuntarily lost their permanent jobs.

HOW TO APPLY

Collect the notice of your job loss, showing it occurred within the last twelve months and your latest unemployment insurance statement(s) which must show 90 days of continuous unemployment

Complete the online application form at <http://goo.gl/6Kxkj>

Print the online application PDF, sign and mail all required documentation to:

ATTN: Union SAFE Job Loss Grant
Union Privilege
1125 15th St., NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005

Please allow 4-5 weeks for application processing. You will be notified by mail when your application has been approved or denied.

If approved for the grant, payment will be made directly to your Union Plus Credit Card account. Please be sure to continue making your credit card minimum payments until your application is processed and the \$250 grant posts to your account. To check your balance, you can call the Union Plus Credit Card at 1-800-622-2580 or check your account online at www.UnionPlusCard.com.

Happy JUNE Birthdays!

John Aguilar
Michael Alexiou
Robert Alustiza
John Balducci
James Bennett
Jeremy Bigman
Bryon Borchart
Edward Bowles
Timothy Breshears
Woody Carey
Robert Cole
Robert Cosio
Alex Costes Jr.
Sergio De Toma
Alphons De Vos
Ronald DeMateo

Donald Dibble
Randall Dike
Joseph Dimaggio
Mark Dybdahl
Cynthia Dzendzel
Guillermo Estrada
Jeff Flippin
Ralph Games
Andrew Gattis
Randall Harris
Donald Hughes
Daniel Lujan
Pete Marsiguerra
Sigfried Matt
Gary McCarthy
Paul Miller Jr.

Carlos Moncada
Robert Orlando
James Paige Jr.
Aladdin Preston
Leslie Rasmussen
Daniel Recker
Frank Rivera
Robert Rollins
William Rust
Raymond Taber
Randall Tracey
Lance Van Der Linden
Gregory Vandeusen
Michael Zrodlo



This Month's Local 234 Winners!

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

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

Alan Repogle won \$12 and donated it back.

Apprentice Give-Away:

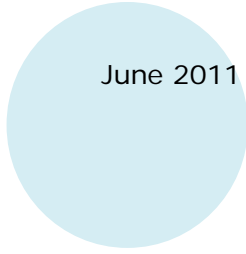
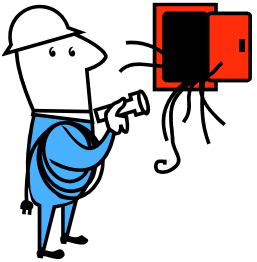
Raymond Sykes won \$23.40.

Give-Away Winners:

Mike Ihnot won a custom IBEW 234 t-shirt.
Stefan Marceron won a "One Strength" bandana.

The next general membership meeting will be:

Wednesday, June 8, 2011
@ 6:30 pm




June 2011

Quote of the Month

"When you say fiscal responsibility, it seems to me that you really mean rich people keeping their money."

- Alice Adams

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 LMCC @ 4pm	8 Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	9	10 Apprentice Graduation @ 6pm	11 CALCTP @ 7am starts
12	13 CALCTP Evening	14 CALCTP Day Flag Day H&W @ 4pm 2008 NEC 5:30	15 CALCTP Day	16 CALCTP Day	17 CALCTP Day	18
19 Father's Day 	20 CALCTP Day	21 JATC @ 5pm CALCTP Final Exam	22 Executive & Examining Board @ 6pm	23	24	25
26 End of Pay Period	27	28	29	30		

Q & A from the NEC Experts

Question:

Can a totally enclosed dry-type transformer be located in what the NEC® refers to other spaces used for environmental air (plenum)?

Answer:

In accordance with 300.22 (C)(3) transformers are not prohibited from being installed above a suspended ceiling where the space is used for environmental air. However, the transformer must be in a metal enclosure or if a nonmetallic enclosure be listed for use within an air -handling space. The transformer must also meet the ventilation requirements of 450.9, the separation from combustibile material requirements of 450.21(A) and be accessible to qualified persons. Additionally, 450.13(B) requires that the transformer be of a dry type rated 600 volts, nominal, or less and must not exceed 50 kVA.

Source: necplus newsbriefs May 5, 2011 www.nfpa.org



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«field1» «field2» «field3»
«field4»
«field5»