



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

# IBEW Local 234

## Newsletter

May 2011

### Local 234 Officers:

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Financial Secretary**

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

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

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well.

I encourage all Local 234 Electricians to become

CALCTP certified. The course is both challenging and rewarding. The challenge is to complete the free online course which qualifies you for the lecture and hands-on training. You could then take the test to receive this special certification. The reward is gaining the skills and experience to work on these types of energy saving lighting control systems which enable you to accept a Specialty Call for this type of work. It also gives you continuing education hours towards your State General Certification. There is an added incentive of a \$125 stipend upon completion. P.G. & E., S.G. & E., and S.D.G. & E. want to start giving money to big business, public entities, and other large power consumers as incentive when they install CALCTP systems. This adds the CALCTP into job specifications which requires only qualified contractors with qualified Electricians to bid and install these systems. There is a federal building in San Jose already being built that has this specific language. There are also a few projects in Southern California which recently included the CALCTP requirement. These projects will become more prevalent before the end of the year.

Safety topic this month: Why are trenches dangerous? 1) Most deaths from cave-ins occur in trenches 5' to 15' deep, 2) Cave-ins happen suddenly and without warning 3a) Other risks: falls, electrocution, being struck by falling objects (or equipment) and bad air, 3b) Bad air can make it hard to breathe, cause a fire, or poison you.

Eighty percent of trenching deaths occur in construction- half of these deaths are laborers. A cubic yard of soil can weigh up to 4,000 pounds, two cubic feet (approximately 200 pounds) can be enough to seriously restrict a buried victims ability to breathe.

Do you think you can run to safety if a collapse happens? It takes 0.35 seconds for soil to fall 2 feet. Human reaction is 0.50 seconds- no time to run. It takes 0.50 seconds for soil to fall 4 feet. Human reaction time is 0.50 seconds-tie goes to the soil. It takes 0.61 seconds for soil to fall 6 feet. Human reaction time is 0.50 seconds plus 0.11 seconds to get to a ladder exit for safety-grab ladder in time to be buried. These points are made to bring awareness to the dangerous job you do every day. We need to prevent these types of hazards!

I will end on a positive note by wishing all mothers a Happy Mother's Day. Thank you all for the support and love you give to all of us.

## CSLB Zero Tolerance for Uncertified

**DATE: April 13, 2011**

**INDUSTRY BULLETIN: 11-04**

SACRAMENTO - The Contractors State License Board (CSLB) established a zero-tolerance enforcement policy in 2010 and now issues legal action against any C-10 Electrical contractor who willfully employs an uncertified electrician to perform work as an electrician. CSLB is legally required to open an investigation and initiate disciplinary action against the contractor (which may include license suspension or revocation) within 60 days of receipt of a referral or complaint from the Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS).

Labor Code Section 3099.2 stipulates that anyone who performs work as an electrician for C-10 Electrical contractors shall hold an electrical certification card issued by DAS; DAS is required by Labor Code Section 3099.2 to report violations to CSLB.

Electricians are defined as those who engage in the connection of electrical devices for C-10 contractors. It is CSLB's position that electrical work must be performed by either a state-licensed or a certified electrician. An indentured apprentice or state-registered electrician trainee may also perform electrical work if supervised by a state-certified electrician. Trenching, concrete, framing, and other work that does not involve connecting electrical devices may be performed by noncertified workers.

Learn more about electrician certification by visiting the Division of Apprenticeship Standards website at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/das/das.html>



## Scholarship Essay Winners

Congratulations to this year's winners of the IBEW Local 234 Scholarship Essay Contest who were selected from a panel of four judges

**Viridiana Santoyo** of Alisal High School was awarded a \$500 scholarship for Monterey County. Viridiana wrote an essay on "how has the union system played a key role in the life and well-being of my family? "

**James Cook** of Monte Vista Christian School was awarded a \$500 scholarship for Santa Cruz County. James wrote an essay on "why is the organized labor movement important in the United States today?"

No essays were submitted for San Benito County.

## Next MBEVA Meeting

The next Monterey Bay Electric Vehicle Alliance Meeting is

**Thursday, May 5th, 10am - Noon at the regular meeting location:**

**IBEW Local 234**

**10300 Merritt, Castroville.**

Featured Speaker: Glenn Stearns, Roam & Charge, Roam & Charge EV Lifestyle Social Network & Green Fuel Map.

Glenn Stearns will discuss Creating Sustainable Green EV Charging Locations Worldwide and Standard Outlet Top Off Locations Guidelines with a focus on what EV Drivers, Commercial Interests and Environments still want from the "EV Ecosystem". He and Megan Tolbert will provide an update on a related CSUMB Project.

Additional agenda topics include: preliminary results of a survey of Monterey Bay local jurisdictions about their EV charging station permit process; plans for funding proposals to the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District.



# Unions Make the Middle Class

May 2011

## Without Unions, the Middle Class Withers

By David Madland, Karla Walter, and Nick Bunker April 2011

Why should anyone—especially those who are not union members—care that union membership is at record lows and likely to fall even further? Because if you care about the middle class, you need to care about unions.

Critics of unions claim they are unimportant today or even harmful to the economy, but unions are essential for building a strong middle class. And rebuilding the middle class after decades of decline and stagnation is essential for restoring our economy.

Unions make the middle class strong by ensuring workers have a strong voice in both the market and in our democracy. When unions are strong they are able to ensure that workers are paid fair wages, receive the training they need to advance to the middle class, and are considered in corporate decision-making processes. Unions also promote political participation among all Americans, and help workers secure government policies that support the middle class, such as Social Security, family leave, and the minimum wage.

But as unions became weaker over the past four decades, they are less and less able to perform these functions—and the middle class withered. The percentage of workers in unions steadily declined largely because the legal and political environment prevents private-sector workers from freely exercising their right to join or not to join a union. Membership in private-sector unions stands at less than 7 percent today, from around 30 percent in the late 1960s. Public-sector unionization remained stable for decades—it was 37 percent in 1979 and is 36 percent today—but is now under significant threat from conservative political opposition and could start declining as well. All told, less than 12 percent of the total workforce is unionized, and this percentage is likely to continue falling.

Read the full article at Center for American Progress at <http://goo.gl/Zqu77>

## Installer/Technician Upgrade Classes

NorCal S&C JATC is offering several upgrade classes thru May and September, 2011. Classes will be posted on the NorCal Upgrade Calendar which can be found on the NorCal S&C JATC web site. These classes include:

- **CCTV** – 18 Hours of VDV Continuing Education
- **Certified Fiber Optic Technician (CFOT)** – 18 hours of VDV Continuing Education
- **Advanced Fiber Optic Technician** – 24 hours of VDV Continuing Education
  - Prerequisite: You need to have a valid CFOT Certification to take this class.
- **Security/Access Systems** – 12 hours of VDV Continuing Education
- **BICSI Fiber 2** – 40 hours of VDV Continuing Education
  - A BICSI application needs to be sent to NorCal by 6/20/11
  - See course description for more information
- **OSHA-10 and OSHA-30** – 10 or 30 hours of VDV & Fire/Life Safety Continuing Ed.
- For OSHA 10- only attend dates 1 & 2
- For OSHA 30- attend all dates
- For those that have taken the OSHA 10 class within the last 6 months with Chuck Vella , attend dates 3 thru 6
- During online registration , indicate OSHA 10, 30, or the continuation of a previous OSHA class

To register for classes, visit [www.norcal-jatc.com](http://www.norcal-jatc.com), click on "Installer/Tech Login" and then select "Calendar" or "Schedule of Classes." You can view the classes offered and register by clicking "Click to Register."



# JATC Training News

By Ed Sudyka

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Center

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

Could we **PAY** you to take this class?

How about... **\$125.00?**

That's right! NECA and the IBEW are so serious about making sure that we have a trained workforce ready to perform lighting retrofits and upgrades incorporating the latest and greatest new lighting control technologies that together (via the LMCC!) they are willing to provide a stipend of **\$125.00** for any member with CA State Electrical Certification that successfully completes the CALCTP class!

Now, I'm not saying you won't be earning this \$125.00! If you do the math, you'll see it works out to about \$2 per hour of your time... 10 hours online prep work, 10 hours of lecture, and 40 hours of lab work going hands on with lighting controls and wiring. But, if you've got the time, we've got the money for you!

**Advanced  
Lighting  
Controls**



Our next CALCTP class begins Monday, May 9 and goes from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each weekday until the final exam is over around noon on Tuesday, May 17. After that session, we'll start another class towards the end of the month of May. This next class may be an evening class. Let us know what schedule works best for you, we'll take that into consideration! But **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.

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



### Tuesday, May 10, 2011: Harger Ultrashot Certification

On Tuesday, May 10 at 5:30 p.m., Grant Reed from Harger Ultrashot will be here at the Training Center providing us with a certification class on the application of Exothermic Welding processes to electrical work. Call 633-3063 and let us know that you'll be here for this white hot and smok'en fire and brimstone training event!

### 2008 Significant Changes to the NEC... class two!

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! However, this month it will be **delayed one week until**

**Tuesday, May 17 at 5:30 p.m.** in order to allow everyone (including Dave's class members!) to attend the Harger Ultrashot class... This month's class will cover changes in Articles 110 (Requirements for Electrical Installations) and 210 (Branch Circuits).



### Variable Frequency Drives (VFD)

Coming in July, 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 classes 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 and sign up today for this highly informative and relevant evening class. Exact dates will be announced in the June JATC newsletter article.

OSHA 10 COMING TO Castroville!

### OSHA 10

Do you have your OSHA 10 card? The JATC will be putting on an OSHA 10 class in the near future, and we'd love to have you join us! If you have not taken OSHA 10 before, this is your opportunity to renew it! Call today to sign up: 633-3063.

Coming in August: ISAT (International Seismic Application Technology) will return to the Training Center to show us how to correctly brace our conduits for seismic activity.

# REEL WORK 2011

## May Day Labor Film Festival

### Tenth Season

Santa Cruz, Monterey & Santa Clara Counties

April 21 – May 10, 2011



View the film schedule at [www.reelwork.org/schedule.htm](http://www.reelwork.org/schedule.htm) . Admission to all events is by voluntary donation except where noted.

## Manage Your Finances

Get the help of a Financial Representative

**Wednesday, May 11th from 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.

**Principal**

*Financial  
Group*

Call Toll-Free  
(800) 654-1485

### James Boisse

Development Director

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[www.principal.com/centralcalifornia](http://www.principal.com/centralcalifornia)

## Happy May Birthdays!

Raymond Adams  
Francisco Aldape Jr.  
Trinidad Avila  
Clint Byrum  
Paul Chapin  
Laurie Clark  
Adam Cullers  
Terry Currence  
Craig Eddy  
Alexander Elliott  
David Espinoza  
Gary Fenn  
Michael Freeman

Fount Hanson  
Glenn Hanson  
Kasey Jeska  
Alvin Keller  
John Ketchum  
Robert Kirby  
Leo Lotz  
James McGee II  
Jimmie Moore  
Jose Munoz  
David Novarina  
John O'Leary  
Omar Padilla

Jose Parra  
Charles Perkins  
Kevin Pitts  
Walter Regnier  
Gary Riggs  
Richard Roach  
Joey Rogers  
Tom Sims  
Richard Tanaka  
Robert Tangonan  
Jimmy Vandeusen  
Bernie Wall  
Richard Zeman



# This Month's Local 234 Winners!

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

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

Chris Kiner won \$19 and donated it back.

## Apprentice Give-Away:

Raymond Sykes II won \$23.40 and a t-shirt donated by Michael Dempsey.

## Give-Away Winners:

Mike Ihnot won an IBEW luggage tag.

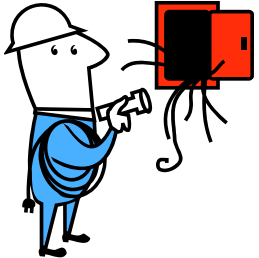
Raymond Sykes II won a t-shirt donated by Mike Dempsey and gifted it to Randy Hill.

Chris Burditt won a Klein tool pouch.

## Quote of the Month

*Do you want to know who you are? Don't ask. Act! Action will delineate and define you.*

- Thomas Jefferson



The next general membership meeting will be:

**Wednesday, May 11, 2011**  
@ 6:30 pm

# May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 LMCC @ 4pm	4	5 Cinco de Mayo MBEVA @ 10am	6	7
8 Mother's Day 	9 CALCTP @ 7am	10 Harger/ UltraShot @ 5:30pm	11 Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	12	13	14
15	16	17 JATC @ 5pm Code Class @ 5:30pm	18	19	20	21 Artichoke Festival
22 End of Pay Period Artichoke Festival	23	24	25 Executive & Examining Board @ 6pm	26	27 HOLIDAY	28
29 JFK's Birthday	30 HOLIDAY Memorial Day	31				

# COPA Regional Meeting

The next COPA regional meeting will be held **Monday, May 16th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the First United Methodist Church, 229 Stanford Street, Watsonville.** Here you will be able to learn about our efforts around foreclosure prevention, developing a regional soccer complex as a response to gang violence and some of our continued work around understanding our economy. Please call Annie Willis at 831-325-5896 to RSVP so she can get the readings for the meeting to you.

Please also read the Economist article "The People's Will", and for a deeper discussion of the history of California politics and economy: the first 4 chapters of "California Crack Up" by Joe Mathews that can be accessed by going to this link: <http://www.box.net/shared/8qh9g06ixd>



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«field5»