



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

# IBEW Local 234

## Newsletter



September 2011

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

### Business Manager's Report by Ken Scherpinski

#### 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**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I hope things are going well. By now the kids are back in school and I am sure you are getting back into the busy routine. I would like to welcome back to school the apprentices and instructors. The apprenticeship classes

start on September 8th. We will also be offering a number of journeyman upgrade classes throughout the year. I encourage all of you to take advantage of this opportunity to gain continued knowledge in the electrical field. Call the JATC office and sign up for these valuable classes and add these hours toward your State Certification.

We will be representing our Local this month at the Marina Labor Day Parade. This year the parade has the largest participating number of entries in 30 years. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the installation of the new football scoreboard for North Monterey County High School. The LMCC donated the labor and materials and will receive recognition as well as our name across the board. The end of the month will be our 38th International Convention. Mike Ihnot and I will be attending. This event will set the tone for business for the IBEW for the next 5 years. I will have a full report in next month's newsletter.

There are 61 on book 1, 30 on book 2, 5 on book 3 and Sound & Com has 5 on book 1.

There are a few ongoing projects and I expect the Hunter Liggett project to start by the end of this month. Projects that are bidding are: the generator removal and installation for Pacific Transit Station, Santa Cruz, Bay

Street Reservoir, Santa Cruz, Marina street light replacement, VFD pump replacement for MRWPA, Monterey, Boulder Creek Elementary School Science classrooms, Ben Lomond and outpatient expansion 2nd floor at Natividad Medical Center, Salinas. I know our contractors are working hard on competitively bidding these and other projects. We will hope for the best.

There are ongoing talks with Plasco Energy for an all union project at the Johnson Canyon Landfill in Gonzales. We are also looking into agreements for the new Sheriff's building in Santa Cruz, a 44 million dollar facility, as well as the Eco Village project in Marina. The Hollister solar project is still on the board. The new investors Nevo-Energy has asked for support to gain an agreement from the PUC. They are willing to extend the agreement adopted by San Benito County, which states a local hire preference, and also to work with the IBEW to build the project. The Santa Clara Building Trades and Local 332 will also help with the negotiations to gain the best possible advantage for members.

Lastly, our annual picnic is this month on Saturday, September 24th at Toro Park Buckeye Area. There will be music, bounce houses, pony rides, face painting and fun to be had by all. Rick Keaton and crew will again be preparing a top notch meal. Please call the office and let us know how many will be attending and order your free car pass for entry. This is a great event and a relaxing way to catch up with old friends and visit with your brothers and sisters in a family picnic setting. I look forward to seeing you and your family this year at this wonderful event!



## Governor Brown Announces Pro-Worker Appointments to CAC, DIR, and CSLB

Governor Jerry Brown today announced a series of appointments important to the Building Trades, including appointments to the California Apprenticeship Council, the Division of Apprenticeship Standards at the Department of Industrial Relations, and the Contractors State Licensing Board.

**Jack Buckhorn**, 56, of Hidden Valley Lake, has been appointed to the California Apprenticeship Council. Buckhorn has been a business manager at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 551 since 2004 and was a business agent from 1998 to 2001. He worked as a journeyman electrician from 2001 to 2004 for multiple contractors including Kaiser Foundation Hospital and Contra Costa Electric. Buckhorn was a training director at Redwood Empire Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee from 1989 to 1998. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$100 per diem. Buckhorn is a Democrat.

**Paul Von Berg**, 66, of Newport Coast, has been appointed to the California Apprenticeship Council. Von Berg has served as executive vice president of Brutoco Engineering and Construction since 1992. He was the director of west coast operations at Park Construction from 1987 to 1992. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$100 per diem. Von Berg is registered decline-to-state.

**Richard Harris**, 67, of Villa Park, has been appointed to the California Apprenticeship Council. Harris has been the president of Residential Contractors Association since 1987. He held multiple positions at Wesseln Construction Company from 1965 to 1987, including general superintendent and apprentice carpenter. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$100 per diem. Harris is a Republican.

**Patrick McGinn**, 63, of Glendora, has been appointed to the California Apprenticeship Council. He has been a senior business representative for the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters since 2008. McGinn was the director of the Southwest Carpenters Training Fund from 2004 to 2008, after serving as a senior business representative from 1993 to 2004. He was a council representative at the Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council from 1989 to 1993. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$100 per diem. McGinn is a Democrat.

**Yvonne De La Pena**, 45, of Elk Grove, has been appointed to the California Apprenticeship Council. De La Pena has been a program director with the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee since 1990. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$100 per diem. De La Pena is a Democrat.

**Diane Ravnik**, 61, of Pleasanton, has been appointed chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards at the Department of Industrial Relations. Ravnik has been a private consultant since 2007, with clients including the Alliance for Labor Standards, Education and Training, the National Alliance for Fair Contracting and Fresno City College Training Institute. She was staff counsel and Alameda County program coordinator of the Northern California Electrical Industry Labor Management Cooperation Committee from 2004 to 2007, chief deputy director of the Division of Apprenticeship at the Department of Industrial Relations from 2001 to 2003, and the administrator of the Work Preservation Fund from 1990 to 2001. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$121,824. Ravnik is a Democrat.

**Frank Schetter**, 64, of Sacramento, has been appointed to the Contractors' State License Board. Schetter has been CEO of Schetter Electric since 2006 and was president from 1983 to 2005. He is currently the governor of the National Electrical Contractors Association and a member of the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$100 per diem. Schetter is a Republican.

# Marina Labor Day Parade & Festival

September 2011

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.



# 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.

# IBEW Local 234 Annual Picnic

## Saturday, September 24, 2011

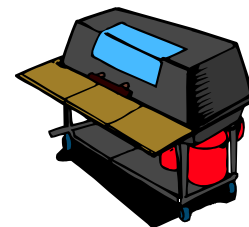
Toro Park, Buckeye Picnic Area in Salinas Off Hwy 68

Time: 11 am to 2 pm

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, and Face Painting.



# IBEW International Convention

The IBEW is preparing for the 38th International Convention. This event will take place in Vancouver, British Columbia, on Canada's Pacific coast. The 38th International Convention will be held September 19-23, 2011.

Held every five years, the IBEW convention is a massive undertaking, bringing some 3,000 local union delegates, officers, staff and guests to the host city. The convention is where the IBEW conducts the heart of its business, setting broad policy goals to guide the union over the next five years in an open, democratic forum.



# Wyesmen Inc. Memorial Rally

IBEW Local 234 has purchased up to five tickets for the 10th Annual Ben Forfang Memorial Rally sponsored by Wyesmen Inc. Wyesmen is a 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to the children of union members. This event's purpose is to set up a "nest egg" for children who have lost a parent prior.

Each donated ticket will include two raffle tickets, a t-shirt, lunch, BBQ, and a great ride. The event will take place on **Saturday, October 8, 2011** at 1875 Arnold Drive in Martinez. The event will begin with registration, breakfast, and rider meeting at 8 am, group pictures at 9:45 am, leave for route unknown at 10 am, and BBQ and raffle from 4-7 pm.

If anyone is interested in participating, please contact the Hall at (831) 633-2311 to reserve your ticket.



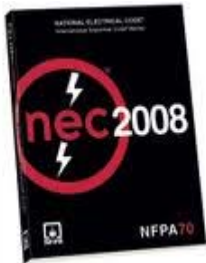


# JATC Training News

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Center

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

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



## 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, September 13th, David will continue with the many changes of the 2008 NEC that are found in Chapter 3.

## CALCTP Class

The next CALCTP (California Advanced Lighting Controls Training Program) class is scheduled to begin on Monday, September 19th 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.

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. Goto [bit.ly/IBEW234CALCTP](http://bit.ly/IBEW234CALCTP) to get started.

LMCC is offering a stipend of \$125 for the CALCTP 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.

## EVITP Class

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program is a Journeyman upgrade class designed for certified electricians. EVITP will help us create an edge to provide for the rapid deployment of a trained and certified workforce to build and maintain an electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the nation.

The next EVITP class, with Instructor Stephen Slovacek, is scheduled to begin on September 26th at 5:30pm. The class will continue for three more evening on September 27th, 28th, and 29th. The class will conclude with two full Saturdays on October 1st and 8th starting at 7am.

## Code Books

Available for purchase are 2011 National Electrical Code books. Both softbound and the hardbound Handbook are available. The 2011 NEC Handbook is \$133.69 and the 2011 NEC softbound is \$84.13.

The 2008 NEC Handbook is \$133.69 and the 2008 NEC softbound is \$84.71.

The 2005 NEC Handbook is \$119.86 and the 2005 NEC softbound is \$75.49.

If you would like to purchase anything from the JATC, please pay with a check, money order, or credit/debit card. The JATC is no longer accepting cash.

## Streamlining the JATC

In an effort to improve efficiency, the JATC will no longer automatically send out Class Completion Certificates after each JW upgrade class. Instead, the certificates will be made available upon request; for example when you need to renew your state certification. The certificates can be emailed as PDFs, mailed or picked up in person.



# Apprenticeship Classes Gearing Up

September 2011

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; credit and debit cards are now accepted.

**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

### NEC Article 404

#### Question

Does the NEC® permit a multipole, general-use snap switch as the means to control two, 120-volt switch legs that are supplied by a 120/240-volt multiwire branch circuit? Each switch leg will be supplied by one line of the multiwire branch circuit.

#### Answer

Yes. The relevant NEC® references are 404.8(C) and the definition of multiwire branch circuit in Article 100. First, Section 404.8(C) prohibits a multipole general-use snap switch from being used as a means to control multiple branch circuits unless the switch is listed and marked as a two-circuit or three-circuit switch, or unless the voltage rating of the switch is not less than the nominal line-to-line voltage of the system supplying the circuits. This requirement aligns with the information contained in the UL White Book for general-use snap switches (UL category code WJQR).

However, in this application the switch is being used to control one multiwire branch circuit and this is where the Article 100 definition of "branch circuit, multiwire" comes into play. This definition begins as follows: "a branch circuit that consists of two or more ungrounded conductors..." A multiwire branch circuit is one branch circuit that consists of three or more circuit conductors. A multiwire branch circuit is permitted to be considered as multiple branch circuits per 210.4(A). As an example, one multiwire branch circuit could be used to fulfill the 210.11(C) requirement to supply the kitchen, dining room, breakfast nook and similar areas with at least two small appliance branch circuits.

In contrast to the permissive application covered in 210.4(A), a multiwire branch circuit branch circuit installed from one building to another meets the condition of 250.32(A) Exception that exempts buildings or structures from having to be provided with a grounding electrode system but provides the capability of two, 120-volt branch circuits. Section 210.4 contains the requirements for the installation and use of multiwire branch circuits including 210.4(B) covering the simultaneous disconnection of all ungrounded circuit conductors at the point where the multiwire branch circuit receives its supply.

Therefore as used in this application, the switch is controlling a single, 120/240 volt branch circuit is in accordance with 110.4 and the voltage rating of the switch cannot be less than the line-to-line voltage (240 volts) of the multiwire branch circuit that it controls.



## 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.

## DLSE Fines Electrical Contractor

The Division of Labor Standards Enforcement has fined R C I Electrical and Design a total of \$6,291.52 for a prevailing wage project at the DMV in Capitola to Replace Outdated Lamps, Ballasts and Strip Lighting. R C I Electrical and Design failed to pay the prevailing wage, misclassified workers, incorrectly paid overtime, failed to make training fund contributions, and failed to provide certified payroll reports in a timely manner.

## 9th District Pension Plan

Mark Foster, a Senior Financial Representative with Principal Financial Group, and Daniel Robinson are now available to assist members with financial planning. They will next be here on:

**Wednesday, September 14th 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 fax  
foster.mark@principal.com

### **Daniel J. Robinson**

181 Metro Drive, Suite 700  
San Jose, CA 95110  
(408) 437-7223  
(408) 910-0445 cell  
(408) 437-7205 fax  
robinson.daniel@principal.com

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

## Happy SEPTEMBER Birthdays!

John Agra  
Brandon Alvarez  
Jeffrey Atkins  
Rene Avila  
Christopher Ayala  
Matt Battaglia  
Susan Carter  
Ronald Dyck  
Ismael Estrada  
Vincent Fessio  
David Fisher  
Steve Flores  
Chris Franklin  
Jeremy Freitas  
Jeremy Hartmann

Glenn Herrera  
Bronson Huerta  
Wayne Huston  
Johnnie La Mascus  
Ruben Lozano  
Steven Luiz  
Manuel Madrigal  
Daniel Martinez  
David Martinez  
Armando Munoz  
Norman Navalta  
Gene Pacheco  
Tony Pacheco  
Roberto Perez  
Bobby Pope

Robert Rovella  
Brian Sabado  
George Sandman  
Gary Schumacher  
Stephen Slovacek  
Michael Stone  
Tom Thomas  
Kevin Trinh  
Berardo Trujillo  
Steven Trybom  
Lawrence Tuckness  
Juan Vargas  
Daniel Walford  
Bob Wilson



# This Month's Local 234 Winners!

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

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

Phil Karleen won \$11.00.

## Apprentice Give-Away:

Raymond Sykes won \$23.40.

## Give-Away Winners:

Chris Burditt won a t-shirt donated by Michael Dempsey.

Jesus Escobedo won a No-Dog 6" level.

The next general membership meeting will be:

**Wednesday, September 14, 2011 @ 6:30 pm**



## Quote of the Month

*"Yes, corporations are people, my friend. They're like members of your family. Your Brother fax machine, your Uncle Ben, your Auntie Anne, your Mama Celeste, your Go Daddy."*

—Stephen Colbert

# September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 HOLIDAY	3 Marina Labor Day Parade 11am-2pm
4	5 Labor Day HOLIDAY CLC Picnic 12-4pm	6	7	8 LMCC @ 4pm Apprenticeship Classes @ 6pm	9	10
11 Patriot Day	12	13 H&W @ 4pm Code Class @ 5:30pm	14 Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	15	16	17
18	19 CALCTP @ 7am	20 CALCTP @ 7am JATC @ 5pm	21 CALCTP @ 7am	22 CALCTP @ 7am	23 CALCTP @ 7am	24 234's Picnic @ 12pm
25 End of Pay Period	26 CALCTP @ 7am EVITP @ 5:30pm	27 CALCTP @ 7am EVITP @ 5:30pm	28 Executive Board @ 6pm EVITP@5:30	29 EVITP @ 5:30pm	30	

# Blue Green Jobs Proposal By Rick Longinotti and Fred Geiger

When the nation's economy gets sick with the flu, our local economy gets pneumonia. Unemployment rates in the Monterey Bay area are higher than state and national averages. Unemployment in the building trades is approximately 30%. At the same time as skilled people are unemployed, the needs of our region are not being met.

A coalition of labor and community groups is proposing a "Blue-Green Jobs Initiative" that would employ local workers in making Santa Cruz County water security sustainable for the long haul. Instead of building a costly and highly energy intensive desalination plant in Santa Cruz, the group proposed to direct the cash in water agency bank accounts (\$40 million and growing in Santa Cruz) to deferred infrastructure projects; pipelines to allow water exchanges between neighboring districts; and a robust program of conservation retrofits in existing properties that would employ union and prevailing wage construction and landscape workers. Instead of exporting water ratepayer dollars to pay for desalination bond debt and electric bills, our water fees will go to local workers who spend their paychecks locally.

The Blue-Green Jobs Initiative also proposes establishing a Young Adult Conservation Corps to rehabilitate logging roads and stream banks in the County watershed, and conduct do-it-yourself workshops in the community on rainwater harvesting, irrigation with graywater, and composting toilets.

Local 234 will consider endorsing the Blue-Green Jobs Initiative at its September 14th membership meeting.

Rick Longinotti is a retired electrical contractor and Fred Geiger is a former vice-president of Local 234.



## International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234



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«field1» «field2» «field3»

«field4»

«field5»