

# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

## Local 234 Newsletter



### Business Manager's Report by Ken Scherpinski

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year to all. As of the writing of this article we have 20 Inside Journey Wiremen currently on Book 1.

The work picture here, as in most areas, is remaining steady through the winter months. The current projects in our area are: Del Monte Electric, Redwood City Electric and Morrow Meadows working at UCSC, Control Line Electric waiting on steel framing for the Cabrillo College building and HA Bowen working on a Whole Foods store in Santa Cruz. Collins has various ongoing jobs including Hartnell East Campus, Rava Foods in King City, Monterey County Court House building and a job at Natividad Hospital. JM is finishing up a project at Salinas Valley State Prison along with CHOMP and Hazel Hawkins Hospital. They should be working with Dilbeck & Sons on a new school for Santa Rita School District. Steiny Electric, barring any rain delays, should start expanding their crew in the coming months for the Soledad Waste Water Treatment Plant. Contra Costa is doing control work for Chevron down in the San Ardo oil fields.

I will be asking the membership to participate in the upcoming Code of Excellence classes that will be facilitated by Andy Hartmann and Paul Gutierrez. I would like to start advertising these to awarding agencies in order to promote the IBEW and Union contractors and also to offer another plus that non-union contractors can not. During these economic times, every advantage we can use to endorse our Union needs to be taken.

With solar construction taking off we are up to the challenge to capture this industry. Paul is working hard on educating himself and others on the steps we need to take to attain a presence in this market. I personally am very excited about the possibilities that could present themselves for the IBEW. When solar opportunities come our way we need to be trained and ready to move forward. If you do not have any solar experience, inquire with our Training Director, Ed Sudyka, about upcoming classes through the JATC.

I have implemented a clause from the National Portability Agreement that states: "... for new jobs as of January first, out of town contractors can bring two incoming men and then they must hire from our books the next person before bringing in another JW after that they must hire a local man." The difference in this clause is that a traveling contractor can not bring in 4 JW's to start a job in our jurisdiction. I hope to remove this restriction once full employment has been achieved.

This year will present many challenges. I still believe with a lot of hard work, a little luck, and a new President in charge of our nation we will be moving forward toward a more prosperous life for our brothers and sisters and our family members.

**Local 234 Officers:**  
Ken Scherpinski  
**Business Manager**

Andy Hartmann  
**President**

Charlie Ruiz  
**Vice President**

Mike Ihnot  
**Treasurer**

Stephen Slovacek  
**Recording Secretary**  
**Registrar**

Anthony Davis  
Andy Gattis  
Rick Keaton  
Richard Smith  
**Executive Board**

Jeremy Bigman  
Robert Campbell  
Phil DiGirolamo  
Mike Reeves  
**Examining Board**

## Two Day Hands-On Solar PV Training

January 24 & 25, 2009: 7am—4:30pm

Site: IBEW Local 11 ETI, 6023 S. Garfield Ave., City of Commerce

### I. CLASSROOM SESSIONS

#### PV SOLAR RACKING, MODULES, INVERTERS AND WIRING

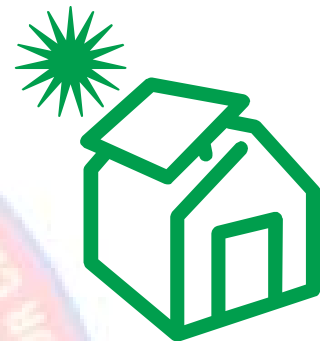
Tim Townsend is a CA P.E. with 25 years of electric power industry experience, mostly in PV. At BEW Engineering Inc., he does PV design review, simulation, field commissioning, and periodic training for organizations such as IBEW/NECA. He has authored a series of DOE-published reports and papers for solar industry conferences and performed O & M at many PV sites ranging from New York to Hawaii. Tim holds a BS in Thermal and Environmental Engineering from Southern Illinois University and an MS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Solar Energy Laboratory.

### II. HANDS-ON SESSIONS—Taught by Expert ETI PV Instructors

- Station Groups (Saturday & Sunday): Ten (10) groups of twenty (20) each
- Rotation Timing: Forty (40) minutes per station

#### Training Stations

1. Site Evaluation
2. System Sizing
3. String Sizing
4. PV Module Setup and Operation
5. PV Module Testing and Troubleshooting
6. Roof Mounting, Rack Assembly and Module Mounting
7. Industrial/Commercial/Residential Inverter Wiring
8. System Setup and Operation
9. System Testing and Troubleshooting
10. Monitoring and Metering



## The Electrical Contractor Business Course

January 23, 24, 25, 2009

Site: IBEW Local 11 ETI, 6023 S. Garfield Ave., City of Commerce

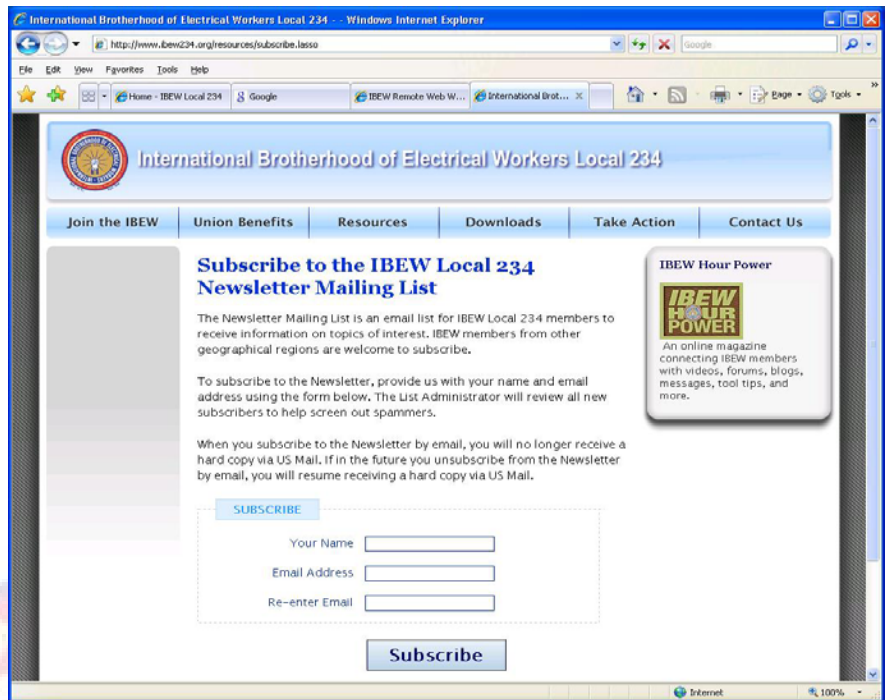
Pro Union Consulting, LLC has been teaching union electricians to become successful and profitable electrical contractors for years. This three-day hands-on course covers many aspects of the organized electrical contracting industry and benefits potential and existing businesses.

Registration starts at 7:30am, class begins at 8am.

Contact Paul Gutierrez at (831) 594-5882 if you would like to attend either of these classes.

## Would you like to receive this newsletter in your email?

We recently just added a subscribe form to our website. The form allows you to add your name and email address to a mailing list. The mailing list is then used to send out the newsletter in an electronic format, or more specifically a PDF version. If you don't have a PDF viewer on your computer, there are many free ones available for download. We'd like to encourage our members to sign up to receive the newsletter online. Some of the benefits of this are: receiving the newsletter sooner, reducing costs, and generating less paper, thereby reducing the impact on the environment. Sign up today. There is a link under Downloads, Newsletter to the subscribe form. Or type <http://www.ibew234.org/resources/subscribe.lasso> into



your browser. Our webpage is located at [www.ibew234.org](http://www.ibew234.org).

## Annual Holiday Second Harvest Food Drive

We just finished up the annual Holiday Second Harvest Food Drive. We raised over \$800 and approximately 100 pounds of food, mostly thanks to the efforts of our Apprentices. Recently at a Union Meeting, the membership voted to give \$500 to Second Harvest. The combination of all these gifts should equal more than we raised last year. These donations are much needed at Second

Harvest this year. Second Harvest serves Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties (two of our three counties). If someone is interested in participating in a food drive for Monterey County please let us know. Good job on the food drive and thanks to all those who made donations.



## 2009 Pocket Calendars



The 2009 pocket calendars are in and ready for pickup. The pocket calendars are great for keeping a daily log. Keeping track of what you do on a daily basis can be helpful in many ways. Some items to log in the

calendar are: who you're working for, job location, who you're working with, time spent working, and type of tasks. Some people also like to record the weather or other eventful data. Remember to pick up your calendar today! They are available to members for free at the hall.



# JATC Training News

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Center

Ed Sudyka, Training Director  
Vivian Frasier, Admin. Asst.  
831.633.3063 office  
831.633.3068 fax  
Trainingibew234@sbcglobal.net

Monterey, San Benito, & Santa Cruz Counties

**Some Options you may want to consider to obtain the Continuing Education Hours you need for Electrical Certification Renewal\*:**

**Hartnell College: (semester begins January 26, 2009):**

ELE-57 Section #1506: Instruments and Controls for Manufacturing and Processing. This Monday and Wednesday evening class is set to cover Programmable Logic Controls (Micrologix 1000), ladder logic, motor controls and motors, solid state power devices and sensors.

ELE-55 Section #1502: Intro to Digital Electronics; This is a Tuesday and Thursday evening class.

CON-62 Section #1352: Construction Law and Contracts; Thursday evenings.

CON-63 Section #1354: Construction Estimating; Wednesday evenings.

CON-64 Section #1356: Construction Scheduling; Monday evenings.

**Cabrillo College: (semester begins February 9, 2009):**

CEM 155 Section #60498: Blueprint Reading. Tuesday evenings;

CEM 159 Section #60499: Construction Planning and Scheduling; Wednesday evenings.

CEM 160 Section #60500: Construction Management; Thursday evenings.

CEM 162 Section #60501: Sustainable Buildings; Tuesday evenings.

CEM 162SP Section #62208: Solar Photovoltaic Design and Installation; Tuesday evenings.

CEM 175B Section #60505: Electric Code and Materials 2: Commercial; Thursday evenings.

If interested in any of these Hartnell or Cabrillo classes,  
remember: apply and register ASAP!

\* Certification renewal requires 32 hours minimum of continuing education "relevant to your category of certification", and may be taken from community colleges as well as from federal or state apprenticeship programs (such as your JATC!).

Upcoming (but not yet scheduled) Classes to be held here at the Training Center in Castroville:

- Solar Photovoltaics (put on in conjunction with the installation of a PV awning along the sunny side of the IBEW Hall/ Training Center building)
- NFPA 70E Electrical Safe Work Processes
- 2008 Significant Changes to the National Electrical Code
- CPR/First Aid class
- OSHA 10
- OSHPD Training (performing construction work in hospital environments)

Call us at 633-3063 to have your name put on the list for any of these classes.

NOTE: A deposit will be required from you when the class is scheduled. This deposit will be based on the cost of the course materials. It will be refunded to you upon successful completion of the class.



As a result of our 4th Annual Holiday Food Drive, the Second Harvest Food Bank has received donated contributions from the Apprenticeship classes and the JATC members which are the equivalent of 1230 lbs. of food to help those in need. The 4th year class gave the greatest donation at the equivalent of 33.1 pounds per person! Thank you!

JUST ARRIVED at the Training Center...

2008 National Electric Codebooks, softbound.



Available for cost of \$61.64 per copy, which includes shipping and tax.

**Answer to December Question of the Month: What is the relationship between a calorie and an electrical installation?**

**Answer:** Dictionary definition #1 for a calorie is a unit of heat. Electrical systems have the potential to release a great many units of heat, sometimes all at once when something goes catastrophically wrong (euphemistically known as “letting the smoke out”). **NFPA 70E** is a document that provides guidelines to understanding the amount of potential “heat” energy in a given electrical system and how to appropriately protect oneself from this hazard.

**January Question of the Month: I know rabbit is nice to recycle, but where does the National Electric Code require the removal of abandoned line voltage wiring?**

## Bylaws Update

A Bylaws Committee (Ken Scherpinski, Andy Hartmann, Stephen Slovacek, David Butters, and Anthony Davis) recently updated Local 234's Bylaws. In order for these changes to become effective they must be put in writing and read at two regular meetings. A written notice was mailed to each member at least twenty days prior to the December Local Union meeting. The changes are to be introduced at one meeting and then acted upon at the second meeting. The changes will be decided at the second meeting by a majority vote of members present and voting. The changes have been read at the **December** meeting. The changes will be read again at

the **January** meeting. We will vote separately on each of the six Proposed Changes. The two Secret Ballot Changes will also be individually voted upon. There are two items on the Secret Ballot because they effect assessments, admission fees, or dues. The Category Language Changes will be voted on all together as one item. The Category Language Changes are mandatory changes, directed by the International Office, and must be included verbatim. However, they still need to be approved by the membership. A complete copy of the Bylaws, with the following changes inserted, is available for members at the Local Union office.

## Happy January Birthday to the Following Members:

Abraham L Adams Jr.  
Joseph W Antoni  
Mark D Clough  
Gale Cortopassi  
Sean Curry  
Charles W De Spain  
Ruth A Dean  
Scott Gaffney  
Ralph Garcia  
Gregory Hague  
Carl R Huboi  
Valentin Ivanov

Jesus M Jara  
Philip E Karleen Jr.  
Sean P Kent  
Christopher Kiner  
Michael A Kulich  
Juan M Leon  
Ronald R Martinez  
George Mellone  
Jose Moncada  
Ernesto Morales  
Steven Petree  
Nicholas J Prelgovisk

Reynold Ramirez  
Manuel Ramos  
Dana E Saccullo  
Jaime Urzua  
Michael J Wolfe  
Jim Zupkus



## Manage your 9th District Pension Plan

Get the help of a Financial Representative

**Tuesday, January 20th Starting at 3pm.**

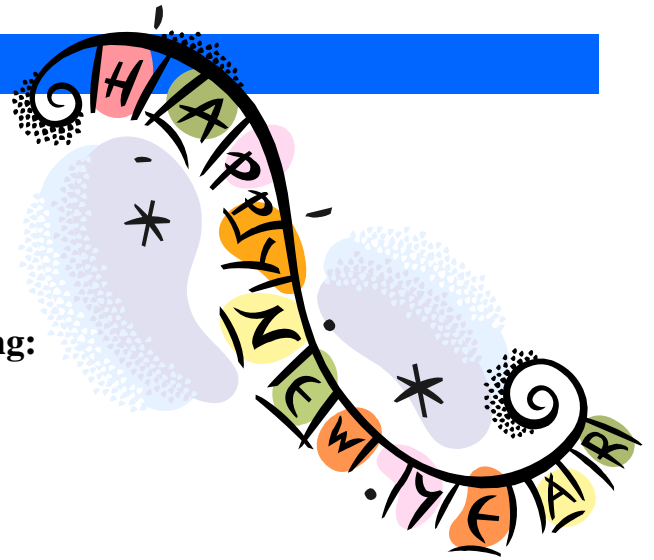


Call Toll-Free  
(800) 654-1485

A Financial Representative will be at the hall to assist anyone with their 9th District Pension plan account. Contact either representative if you would like to set up an appointment. No appointment is necessary.

**Mark Foster, LUTCF**  
Senior Financial Representative  
(408) 437-7220 Ext. 77220  
foster.mark@principal.com

**James Boisse**  
Financial Representative  
(408) 437-7200 Ext. 77245  
(510) 409-2886 cell  
boisse.james@principal.com



## This Month's Local 234 Winners!

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

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

Susan Carter won \$17.00 and donated it back.

### Apprentice Give-Away:

No Apprentices in attendance.

### Give-Away Winners:

Stefan Marceron won a \$25 gift card to Sears.

Rip Smith won a backpack.

The next general membership meeting will be

**Wednesday, January 14th, 2008 @ 6:30 pm.**

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man.

- Benjamin Franklin

# January 2009

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

				1 <b>Holiday</b>	2	3
4	5	6 LMCC @ 5pm	7	8 Joint Board @ 5pm	9	10
11	12	13	14 Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	15	16	17
18	19 <b>Holiday</b>	20 JATC @ 6pm	21	22	23 Electrical Contractor Course	24 Electrical Contractor/ PV Course
25 Electrical Contractor/ PV Course	26	27	28 E-Board @ 6pm	29	30	31



# Congratulations

Michael and Maribel Rodda

Baby Boy Elijah Edward was born on December 3rd

AND

Michael and Natela Gruel

Baby Girl Maiya Anne was born on December 16th

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

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NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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(831) 633-0570 fax  
(831) 633-3063 Education & Training  
(831) 755-2313 Jobline

thehall@ibew234.org

www.ibew234.org  
www.tricountyjatc.org

«field1» «field2» «field3»

«field4»

«field5»

