

April 2008

Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

Local 234 Newsletter



Business Manager's Report by Ken Scherpinski

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Spring to you and your families.

Breaking news "The Labors Union has rejoined the AFL-CIO and the Building Trades." This move will help in settling some of our jurisdictional issues. It is a positive first step but we must still be watchful that they adhere to rights of other Unions.

Work continues to be steady with existing jobs. We have been monitoring job bids to track upcoming awarded projects. Morrow Meadows should be getting going on a job at UCSC, Steiny Electric should be awarded the project in Soledad at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, also Salinas Valley State prison may be needing some help. If you have not filled out the paper work for the background check on this project you can pick it up at the hall and return it to us so we can get it to the contractor. It takes about 2 to 3 weeks to clear thru.

We are in need of members to step up for our Membership Development Committee. If you are interested in becoming more involved with political issues or other Union activity please call the hall and leave your name and phone number. I will make sure you get on our MDC list of volunteers.

I wanted to share my view from a recent article from Mark Breslin, a strategist specializing in labor-management challenges. He brings up a great point about the loss of the handshake and honor system with respect to doing business. Without trust and integrity relationships can not be built, our Union will never grow or prosper. Without a basic foundation of ethics, trustworthiness and respect we can never achieve that for which we deserve.

Have a safe and healthy month of April.

Local 234 Officers:
Ken Scherpinski
Business Manager

Andy Hartmann
President

Charlie Ruiz
Vice President

Mike Ihnot
Treasurer

Stephen Slovacek
Recording Secretary

Anthony Davis
Andy Gattis
Rick Keaton
Derek Webster
Executive Board

Jeremy Bigman
Robert Campbell
Phil DiGirolamo
Mike Reeves
Examining Board

President's Report by Andy Hartmann

Ken and I have been working on establishing relationships within our community and increasing the recognition of IBEW Local 234. Recently, we attended the 2nd Harvest Food Bank Award Dinner. The event was held at Temple Beth El in Aptos, near Cabrillo College. The event was well attended with many of the larger companies represented along with school districts and a few Mayors from the surrounding area. IBEW Local 234 earned the Bronze Can award again this year for donating over 1,000 lbs. of food or cash equivalent. IBEW Local 234 was the only trade union to earn an award. Congratulations to all of you who helped out. This year's food drive earned a total of 1.7 million pounds of food. The 2nd Harvest Food Bank supports over 46,000 local families in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. Again thanks to all of you who helped out those less fortunate.

Ideal Presentation at the Hall

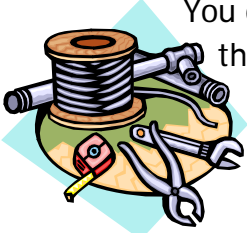
Monday, April 14th at 5pm

Have you ever performed a ground rod test? Do you know how to set one up and run a test? Do you know what the readings mean? Dave Kadonoff, Ideal Representative, will put on a presentation on ground rod testing on Monday, April 14th. The presentation will run from 5-6pm. There will be a little bit of classroom time initially, then outside to test the ground rods with an Ideal meter, and finally back in the classroom to interpret the data collected. Food and drink will be provided. Anyone and everyone is welcome to attend.



Trick of the Trade: Reading Resistance

You can tell a lot from resistance. Say you have two Wemcos on the job. They both have the same AWG wire but the lengths are different. If you don't have the tags attached to each telling you the length, you can get an ohm meter and read the resistance of each conductor. The longer lengths will have a higher resistance reading. You could also divide your reading by the resistance/foot to get a rough estimate of length.



Comet Organizing Membership Education Training by Paul Gutierrez

This month I spent four days taking the COMET train-the-trainer course in Portland, Oregon. The class was a real eye opener. There have been and continue to be many obstacles that organized labor have to overcome. It is important that each and every member know what it takes to survive and thrive in today's business world. Not only is it the administration's duty but it is also the duty of every union member to give so that we may gain strength through market share and union density. With



Organizers alone talking to unrepresented workers, the ratio is 1:833. With every member talking and helping organize the ratio is dramatically dropped to 1:1.8. There is a lot of important information and strategic plans that I could probably take up two newsletter articles with. Instead I ask that you call the hall and sign up for a COMET class. Andy and I will periodically put one on. We will gladly address any concerns about organizing and the future of our industry. Please get involved and we hope to see you at our next COMET class.

Manage your 9th District Pension Plan

Get the help of a Financial Representative

Thursday, April 17th Starting at 3pm.

A Financial Representative will be at the hall to assist anyone with their 9th District Pension plan account with either setting up, accessing, or managing funds. Contact either representative if you would like to set up an appointment. However, no appointment is necessary.



Call Toll-Free
(800) 654-1485

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

or

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



JATC Training News

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee

April 2008

Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz

Journeyman Upgrade

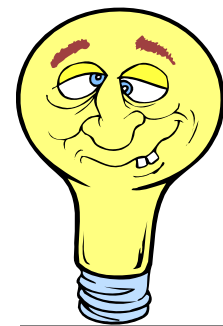
In the March '08 issue of the "Training News" I asked that you JW's out there interested in taking JW Upgrade classes contact me to confirm your interest. The JATC wants to schedule some classes in the near future, and which ones these are depends on your signups.

I only had two JW's contact me to confirm!

So in this month of April I will be calling or sending letters out to those who have previously signed up on the class lists. I'll do this to make sure you're willing to commit to attending a particular class, so we can get it scheduled. Save me some time, and call to confirm! -Ed

Certification Renewal Classes- Not At Our JATC Yet!

Why am I not surprised! After two meetings which were held for public comment on a revision to the Electrical Certification Law that would allow JATC's to provide Continuing Education classes for JW recertification, the latest update is that the decision has been postponed until the late April/early May 2008 quarterly meeting of the California Apprenticeship Council.



If it came with a FREE copy of the new 2008 National Electric Code, would you attend a Code Upgrade Class?

I'd love your feedback on this question! I'll take it to the Committee, and see if they'll "buy" the idea! Give Ed a call at 633-3063, or drop me an email at trainingibew234@sbcglobal.net

HELP! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PROCTOR APTITUDE TEST!

97 applicants for the apprenticeship program will be testing their Algebra and Reading Comprehension skills against our Aptitude Test on **Saturday, April 19**.

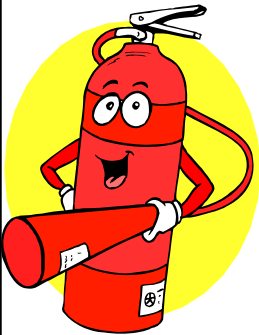
The morning session doors open at 8:45 a.m., and the afternoon session kicks off at 1:15 p.m. I will need at least **three (3)** proctors for each session!

Can you donate some of your time proctoring this Aptitude test, either during the morning or afternoon on Sat. April 19? Please call me and let me know I can count on you!

Without 3 proctors each session, this test cannot be conducted! **HELP! PLEASE!**

Sound and Comm. Workers! Good news, NICET* class is back!

The NICET Certification Preparation Class is back on track! With permission from the NorCal S&C Trustees, NICET Level IV Certified Bob Zibreda is stepping back up to the plate, er, podium, again to instruct this class beginning on Tuesday evening, April 22, at 5:30 p.m. Call 633-3063 to sign up for this class to learn what you need to know to become NICET Level 1 and 2 Certified in Fire Alarm. Much of the information covered in these classes will also prepare a JW for the State Fire Alarm / Life Safety Certification exam as well!



*NICET: National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies

Answer to March 2008 "Question of the Month":

How does the definition of "Neutral Conductor" differ between the 2008 and 2005 NEC?

Generally, definitions are found in Article 100, and in 2005 there was nothing listed there for Neutral Conductor! The NEC Code panel decided that this caused confusion between the terms "neutral conductor" and "grounded conductor". The 2008 NEC defines the "Neutral Conductor" as "The conductor connected to the neutral point of a system that is intended to carry current under normal conditions." This makes a clear distinction between the neutral conductor and the equipment grounding conductor!

April's Question: When is it permissible to intermingle AC and DC conductors in the same raceway? When is it not a good practice, although it may be permissible?

Monterey Bay Central Labor Council

CLC Endorsements for June 2008 Election

Recommendation to CA Labor Federation for CA AD-27

Bill Monning

Measure R - Countywide Library Improvement/Continuation

Yes

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

District 1

John Leopold

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

District 5

Mark Stone

Monterey County Board of Supervisors

District 1

Fernando Armenta

Monterey County Board of Supervisors

District 4

Jane Parker

Monterey County Board of Supervisors

District 5

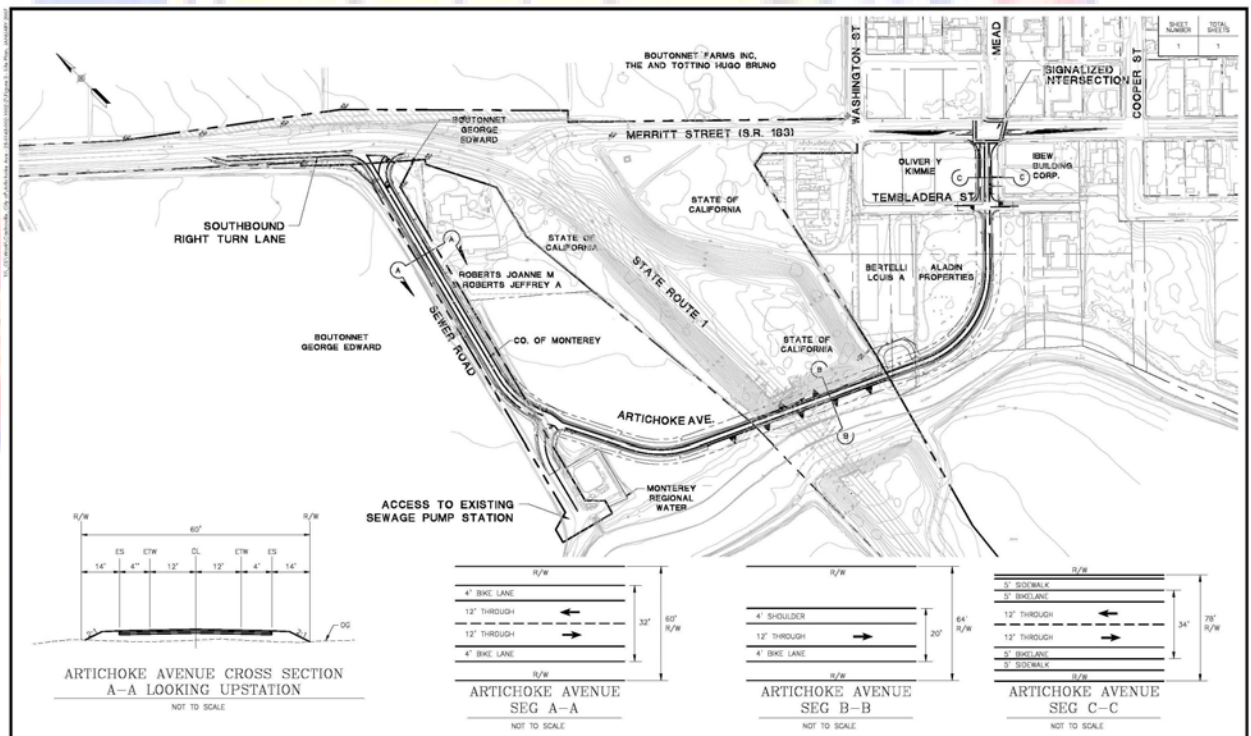
Dave Potter

To volunteer for precinct walking, phone calling or other tasks to help labor-friendly candidates win, please contact LaborCouncil@mbclc.org or 831-633-1869.

Proposed Roadway Improvement Project: Artichoke Avenue

Monterey County Housing and Redevelopment Office is proposing the Artichoke Avenue Roadway Improvement Project. The project will begin at the intersection of Hwys 1 and 183 (Merritt Street), creating a southbound right turn lane from Hwy 1. The roadway will extend along Sewer Road past the pump station. The road then curves along Tembladero Slough and ends at Mead Street (at our driveway).

Public comment is from March 14–April 14. Contact the Hall if you would like to share in the review of this project.



This Month's Local 234 Winners!

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

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

Stefan Marceron won \$20.00 and donated it back.

Apprentice Drawing:

Mike Rodda won \$23.40.

Raffle Winners:

Stefan Marceron won a t-shirt.

Mike Rodda won a Klein 5-1 screwdriver.

Derek Webster won a tape measure pocket saver.

The next general membership meeting will be
Wednesday, April 9, 2008 @ 6:30 pm.

"The important role of union organizations must be admitted: their object is the representation of the various categories of workers, their lawful collaboration in the economic advance of society, and the development of the sense of their responsibility for the realization of the common good."

- Pope Paul VI

April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Resign Ends	3	4	5
6	7	8 LMCC @ 5:30pm	9 Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	10	11	12
13	14 Ideal Presenta- tion @ 5pm	15 Resign Begins/ JATC @ 6pm	16	17 Principal @ 3pm	18	19
20	21	22 Earthday	23 E-Board @ 6pm	24	25	26
27 End of Pay	28	29	30			

Local 234 Scholarship

In order to better the community and help promote IBEW Local 234, we decided to offer a high school scholarship. The idea was presented to the E-Board and then recommended to the body for approval. The body approved the scholarship offer. Letters have recently been mailed to all the high schools in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties (both public and private). The following is an excerpt from the letter. **Note: This scholarship is available to any and all of our members with graduating seniors.**

IBEW 234 will this year offer **three (3) \$500** college scholarships to high school seniors who are about to graduate and who meet all qualifying criteria -- one each in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties.

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 the organized labor movement is important in the United States today.
- How 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 mailed to: **Andy Hartmann, Scholarship Essay Contest, IBEW 234, 10300 Merritt St., Castroville, CA 95012.** IBEW Local 234 will judge essays for content, clarity and originality. The decision of the judges will be final.

Entries must be postmarked by **Monday, April 21** and received by **Friday, April 25.** Proof that application requirements are fulfilled, including graduation, will be required, as will proof that the winner enrolls in a university, college, junior college or other institution of higher learning in the summer or fall of 2008. No essays will be returned. IBEW 234 is not responsible for any entries that are not received or are damaged before being received. Each entry must include the student's full name, school and a contact phone number. IBEW 234 will contact the school to make certain that the student is enrolled. The name and union affiliation of the union member in the entrant's family must also be included.

Additional information is available by calling Andy Hartmann, President of IBEW 234, at (831) 633-2311.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

10300 Merritt Street
Castroville, CA 95012



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
IBEW LOCAL 234
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CASTROVILLE, CA
PERMIT NO. 410

(831) 633-2311 Union
(831) 633-0570 fax
(831) 594-0860 Ken Scherpinski, Business Manager
(831) 633-3063 Education & Training

(831) 755-2313 Jobline



«field1» «field2» «field3»

«field4»

«field5»