

February 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,

February kicks off the start of our Inside negotiations. We have been asking our members to let us know some of the important issues that should be addressed. How do you really feel about our current agreement? What suggestions do you have to make the terms and conditions better for your fellow brothers and sisters? The negotiating team of former Executive Board member Al Randall, Recording Secretary Steven Slovacek, Membership Development Representative Paul Gutierrez, President Andy Hartmann and I will do everything in our power to achieve a fair and equitable agreement. Please forward your comments to me at kscherpinski@ibew234.org in time for the Committee to research all requests and evaluate how they might fit into the plans for all of our futures.

I have been meeting with city and county leaders to present our concerns on State Certification, Health Care, and local hire. To date I have talked with Fernando Armenta, Lou Calcagno, Monterey County Council members, Mayors Dennis Donahue, Chuck Della Sala, Ila Matee-McCutchon, Salinas City Council member Sergio Sanchez and Santa Cruz council member Lynn Robinson. I strongly believe by furthering these relationships we will be in a better position for communication with government leaders.

Local 234 Officers:
Ken Scherpinski
Business Manager

Andy Hartmann
President

Charlie Ruiz
Vice President

Mike Ihnot
Treasurer

Steve Slovacek
Recording Secretary

Anthony Davis
Andy Gattis
Rick Keaton
Derek Webster
Executive Board

I have completed my first of a two week New Business Managers course. The training did a great job of identifying the basic skills and traits of an effective Business Manager and summarized the diverse job duties. The message from International President Hill impressed upon all who attended was the need to perform the duties of Business Manager in a professional and ethical manner. There is no substitute for ethics and respect both on the job and in our everyday life.

Know your agreement: If a member wants to adjust their job start time, what section in the CBA is this issue addressed?

Keep up the great job you are all doing representing our local and remember, safety is no accident.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day and best wishes for you and your families.

Our Condolences

IBEW Local 234 Retiree

Richard Pinkham

Passed away on January 12, 2008

Brother Pinkham had been a member since 1939.

Organizer's Report by Andy Hartmann

Ken, Paul, and I recently attended a labor law conference. It takes place each year in Portland, Oregon. Paul actually spent the whole week up there for new Organizer's training. The labor law conference is a great event and is open to all labor unions. It is hosted annually by IBEW Local 48, at their training center and meeting hall. Each year the topics and presenters are varied. This year the conference was broken up to allow attendance of 5 classes. There were almost 20 different classes to choose from. Some of the classes were NLRB, USDOL - Record Keeping, Voluntary Recognition, Workers' Comp, and Arbitration. The most interesting class I attended was about the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The FLSA covers an employee for overtime work either required or permitted by an employer. This essentially is the proper compensation for work performed either before the start of the work day or after the work day has ended. Some examples are putting gas in a vehicle before the start of a shift, checking e-mail, making and/or taking phone calls, completing reports or other paperwork, attending meetings, or cleaning and/or maintaining equipment. The Department of Labor (DOL) states, "In all such cases it is the duty of the management to exercise its control and see that the work is not performed if it does not want it to be performed. It cannot sit back and accept the benefits without compensating for them. The mere promulgation of a rule against such work is not enough. Management has the power to enforce the rule and must make every effort to do so."

The important factors in determining if this time is to be compensated is dependent upon 1) the amount of time involved (usually more than 7 ½ minutes); 2) the practical administrative difficulty of recording the time; and 3) the regularity with which the work was performed. The employer is liable for activities performed outside the normal work shift under the FLSA if the activities are an "integral and indispensable" part of the principal activity of employment. "Integral and indispensable" means "an activity must be necessary to the principal work performed and done for the benefit of the employer." A good example of this is clean room work. The donning and doffing (putting on and taking off) of "bunny suits" is compensable time because it is required and the wearing of these outfits is for the employer's benefit. Another example of compensable time is training. The only time training is non-compensable is when it is voluntary, outside of regular work hours, no productive work is involved, and it is unrelated to employee's primary job. All of these must be met in order to be considered non-compensable. Time spent by an employee for a medical or physical examination, which the employer orders, are considered compensable time. This also includes drug testing.

For more information check the DOL website at <http://www.dol.gov/>. This article was adapted from the WAGE & HOUR CLASS ACTIONS presentation and PowerPoint by Will Aitchison, AITCHISON & VICK.

The Month of February

February is the shortest month and the only month with fewer than 30 days. It typically has 28 days and, in leap years, 29 days. 2008 is a leap year because it is divisible by four. The month of February is recognized as the following:

- American Heart Month
- Black History Month (United States and Canada)
- Library Lovers Month
- National School Counseling Week (first week, United States)
- National Children's Dental Health Month



Don't forget Valentine's Day on February 14th! Other events this month are AFC-NFC Pro Bowl, NBA All-Star Game, Daytona 500, Westminster Dog Show, Darwin Day celebration, Carnival, NHL All-Star Game, The Super Bowl, The Great Backyard Bird Count, Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday, and Chinese New Year.

Manage your 9th District Pension Plan

with the help of a Financial Representative

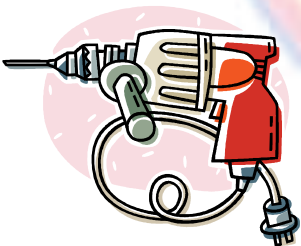
Thursday, February 21st Starting at 3pm

James Boisse will meet with anyone that may need advice on either setting up or accessing their retirement fund account. No appointment is necessary.



James Boisse
Financial Representative
Princor Registered Representative
Retirement Network for Union Members
CA Insurance Lic OE83132
Toll Free 1-800-654-1485
Email boisse.james@principal.com

Trick of the Trade: Opps I drilled the wrong size hole



It has happened to all of us. You have just holesawed an 1 1/2" hole for the feed to your panel. Then the foreman changed the feed to a 2 1/2" hole. No worries. Just screw the 2 1/2" holesaw onto the arbor. Screw the 1 1/2" holesaw inside of the 2 1/2" holesaw. This fills the 1 1/2" hole and prevents movement while drilling the 2 1/2" hole. Wa-la you have a clean 2 1/2" hole. No worries.



JATC Training News

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee

February 2008

Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz

Update on Renewal Classes for State Certification

The latest news is that the Electrical Certification law has a pending change that would allow JATC's free reign to offer JW Upgrade classes independent of their Community College connection. This pending change has made its way to the "public comment" part of the process.

The folks that run State Electrical Certification know, like you do, that the "clock is ticking" on the upcoming 2009 renewal deadline, so they are feeling the pressure to finalize how recertification credits will be allowed.

Perhaps this ruling will be decided by summer 2008? I hope so!

By the way, I've heard from several JW's who have enrolled in some of the local Community college classes I listed in the January JATC News. If you are one of these, remember that you will be in class amongst non-Union folks who may someday consider joining the IBEW-- so show some pride and set a good example for our Union!

Speaking of Certification Renewal hours.... and BlueVolt.com

BlueVolt.com is an online provider of educational classes for many trades, including the electrical trade. I have been informed that BlueVolt.com is now approved by the State of California to offer online courses that can be used for Certification renewal hours.

BlueVolt has offered the members of our Local a discount of \$5.00 off any course when you use the promo code "IBEW234".

For instance, BlueVolt has a "Significant Changes to the 2005 NEC" course available for \$85.00 for 8 hours of renewal time. The IBEW 234 discount would take that price down to \$80.00.

Not cheap... but it is another option.

CPR Certification Renewal Class coming up!

If you are in need of recertification for your CPR card, please contact the JATC at 633-3063 and reserve a spot in the upcoming CPR Certification renewal class.

This class will be held on a Saturday sometime late February or early March.

Even if you have already had your name posted in our class listings book, please call to confirm that you still want and need this class.

Once the class is scheduled, we will contact you and let you know the particular Saturday date. Thanks!



Got Your NEC Code Book? Is it 2005 yet?

Well, it's now 2008, and some municipalities in this progressive State of California have finally moved on and adopted the **2005** National Electric Code! Others are soon to follow...

Do you have a 2005 NEC? If you were one of the first one hundred Local 234 current dues-paying JW's that came in and signed one out, it didn't cost you anything but your time and gas. If you missed that "freebie" opportunity, there are still a copious quantity of 2005 softbound NEC's here at the Hall looking for a home. How about yours?



The same price it cost the JATC to buy these NEC's is the cost that the JATC would charge you... \$74.00, plus sales tax. Granted, you may be able to find this 2005 NEC for less on the Internet, but you won't have to pay us for shipping!

P.S.... I hope that if and when the Cert. rule making folks allow us to put on classes that count for Cert. renewal, one of the first to be offered will be a "Significant Changes for the 2005 NEC" class.

Question of the Month: (back by popular demand, believe it or not!)....

Yes, there are some readers of the JATC News out there that actually enjoy having their brain challenged by these questions. Hence, I present this February "question of the month". First one to respond with the correct information gets a free two-liter of soda, their choice of flavor!

Question: A standard 20-amp rated duplex receptacle has a NEMA 20-A polarized configuration, however, some ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) receptacles that carry a rating of 20 amps are provided with a 15-A NEMA configuration receptacle. Can you tell me why the GFCI is not the same?

How can this be? Aren't there "standards" for these devices? How can something with a 20 amp receptacle rating have a 15 amp receptacle configuration?

Helpful hint: Having the understanding of how a GFCI works.

Question provided courtesy of IAEI. (Who dat?) Stay tuned next month!

234 Member Profile:



Albert Randall

Questions & Answers with Albert Randall.

How long have you been in the IBEW?
9 years.

How did you become a member and what was that experience like?
I was working non-union electrical with a friend and ran into Forest Bayer at a supply house. I became interested and talked with Ron Carpenter. I joined the union three weeks later.

Who do you work for now and in what capacity?
I had a good 2007 with Cupertino Electric working on Safeway remodels and Bed, Bath, and Beyond. I am currently unemployed.

“The strongest bond of human sympathy outside the family relation should be one uniting working people of all nations and tongues and kindreds.”

- Abraham Lincoln

What do you enjoy most about the electrical trade?
Being able to use the training I received to do a professional job.

What do you do to participate in the union or to make it better?
I work under and abide by the Inside Agreement. I am currently on the negotiating Committee and I served one term as an E-Board member.

What is the greatest benefit that you have received as an IBEW 234 member?
Self-confidence.

Do you have any advice for new union members, either Apprentices or Journeymen?
Work hard, work smart, have fun.

Any closing comments?
I thank all of my teachers, JW's and peers for helping me become a J.W.

About the Local 234 Newsletter

We are still working on the look and feel of the newsletter. Last month we printed in color. However, we will probably not continue to do that in order to keep costs down. The cost to print in color is \$0.36 each. Black and white is \$0.05 each. We are working on getting non-profit mailing status established with the United States Post Office. That would help us cut costs. Once the non-profit status is in effect we will reevaluate if we want to print in color. Let us know what you think about this or other suggestions for the newsletter.

This Month's Local 234 Winners!

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

C.O.P.E. (Committee on Political Education) Drawing:
Mike Ihnot won \$13.00 and donated it back.

Apprentice Drawing:
Abraham (Lamont) Adams won \$23.40.

Raffle Winners:
Bob Dollins won a Buck knife.
Abraham Adams won a tape measure and knife.
Paul Gutierrez won a flashlight.

The next general membership meeting will be
Wednesday, February 13, 2007 @ 6:30 pm.

New Members Initiated

Please welcome the following new Local 234 members:

James Mauras
Abraham Adams Jr.

February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 LMCC @ 5:30pm	6 Resign Ends	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	14	15 Resign Begins	16
17	18 President's Day (Holiday)	19 JATC @ 6pm	20	21 James Boisse 3pm @ the hall	22	23
24 End of Pay Period	25	26	27 E-Board @ 6pm	28	29	

Organizer's Vehicles for Sale!

We got a really good deal on two new trucks for the Organizers. Because of this we are now selling the 2000 Ford Expedition and the 2001 Ford F-150. The vehicles will be sold to the highest bidder. The bids must be submitted to the hall in a sealed envelope before 5pm on Wednesday, February 27th. Bids received after this date will not be accepted. The sealed bids will be reviewed and awarded to the highest bidder by the Executive Board on Wednesday, February 27th. The highest bidders must purchase the vehicles within five (5) business days of notification otherwise the offer will go to the next highest bidder. All proceeds will be remitted to the organizing fund.



2000 Ford Expedition V8 Triton, Silver, 160k miles, automatic, AM/FM cassette w/6-disc changer, running boards, privacy glass, A/C, PS, PW, PL, CC. Kelley Blue Book (starting bid) \$5390.



2001 Ford F-150 v8 Triton, White, 4-door, 100k miles, automatic, AM/FM cassette. Kelley Blue Book (starting bid) \$4930.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

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Castroville, CA 95012
(831) 633-2311 Union
(831) 633-0570 fax
(831) 594-0860 Ken Scherpinski, Business Manager
(831) 633-3063 Education & Training



(831) 755-2313 Jobline



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