

Local 234 Newsletter



Business Manager's Report by Ken Scherpinski

Happy New Year Brothers & Sisters:

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. 2007 was a good year for Local 234 and I know 2008 will be even better!

Our focus for '08 will be on gaining market shares in the areas of small commercial TI's, solar, and the always tough residential. The International will be helping us by compiling a data base to track jobs and manpower needs in our area. I am working diligently with our contractors to find ways to recapture work in all areas.

Name recognition has been lacking in our local. Brother Hartmann and I have been exploring different advertising strategies to make IBEW/NECA more identifiable to our public. Your LMCC has started the process of advertising the +5 Program, which extends our warranty on union installations. We are also making job site banners which promote the contractors and union electricians of LU 234.

We are currently working with the Building Trades on a lawsuit against Shea Development who is responsible for most of the current construction work at Fort Ord, Marina. Our goal is to clarify a prevailing wage issue for all construction on this property. I will keep you informed as this issue moves forward.

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 spoken with Bruce Baxter of Cupertino Electric about a solar project agreement they have with the city of Watsonville. We have to get creative to gain this work, but I look forward to collaborating with Mr. Baxter and Cupertino on these future endeavors.

Some upcoming projects our contractors are looking into are the Santa Cruz Holiday Inn Express, Rispin Bed and Breakfast, the Serria Therm Building, Soledad Waste Water Treatment Plant, and various school projects for all three counties.

I would like to thank the membership for their faith in and support of the current administration. I also want to acknowledge the dedicated efforts shown by our Organizers, Andy and Paul. The hard work they continually do reaching out to electrical workers and contractors has changed a lot of attitudes and misconceptions about our union that were established in the past.

Union Plus Scholarship Application



Now Available for IBEW Families

Application deadline Jan. 31, 2008

Applications for the 2008 Union Plus Scholarship Program, which offers \$150,000 in scholarships annually to union members, their spouses and dependants, are now available.

To download the application, visit <http://www.unionplus.org/scholarships>. Or, send a postcard with your name, return address, telephone number and international union name to: Union Plus Education Foundation, c/o Union Privilege, P.O. Box 34800, Washington, DC 20043-4800. The application deadline is January 31, 2008.

Since 1992, the Union Plus Scholarship program has provided more than \$2.4 million to help fulfill the educational dreams of students who represent more than 13 million working families across the nation. Union Plus Scholarship awards are presented annually.

In 2007, 103 students were awarded a total of \$150,000 in scholarships from the Union Plus Scholarship program. More than 5,500 applications were received last year in the annual scholarship program, which is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation with funding from HSBC, the issuer of the Union Plus Credit Card.

IBEW members as well as their spouses and dependent children are eligible to apply for scholarships, and can take advantage of Union Plus benefits, which help members with everything from personal finances to discounts on everyday purchases.

Organizer's Report by Andy Hartmann

Local 234 is at full strength with two Organizers again. Paul Gutierrez has been on staff about a month now and is doing a fine job. The both of us are getting out and talking with Electricians and Contractors. We are approaching as many people as possible in order to make the presence of the union known once again. The effect has been good and in the process we've established some good, positive relationships. Getting to know the workers on the job has helped with compliance enforcement. We continue to use our Labor Compliance Specialist, Farley Associates, to request public documents, monitor Prevailing Wage payments, and submit complaints. There have been some interesting Prevailing Wage situations come up lately at the former Fort Ord. Prevailing Wage has been written into some contracts, which doesn't necessarily create coverage and/or enforcement by the state. In these situations, Prevailing Wage has become a contractual obligation and not a state regulation. It makes the monitoring process more difficult, less transparent, and not as easily enforceable. Paul, Ken, and myself are going to Portland, Oregon at the end of January to receive training on organizing and labor law. The conference is usually very well put together and quite informative.

Your Union Dues Have Increased!

Basic dues have gone up. The current rates are listed below. Remember, you receive a free t-shirt with the purchase of one years dues.

	“A” MEMBERS	“BA” MEMBERS
Monthly	\$ 26.50	\$ 14.50
Quarterly (3 months)	\$ 79.50	\$ 43.50
Biannually (6 months)	\$159.00	\$ 87.00
Annually (12 months)	\$318.00	\$174.00

Manage your 9th District Pension Plan

with the help of a Financial Representative

Thursday, January 17th 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

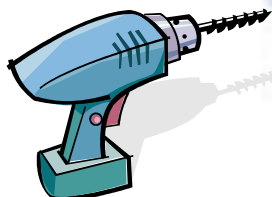
2008 Pocket Calendars are in!

The 2008 pocket calendars are in. Remember to pick up your free calendar today! They are available at the hall.



Trick of the Trade: Saving a Raceway

If during a pour, concrete goes down into your raceway and obstructs it, the raceway can still be saved. The day before you try to salvage the raceway pour a 12oz. Coke down the pipe at the obstruction. The next day push a fish tape down to the obstruction. Cut the fish tape about 18” out of the conduit and then chuck it up in a cordless drill motor. Run the drill in an up and down motion till the obstruction is cleared. Vacuum the debris out and you have saved the raceway.





JATC Training News

January 2008

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee

Ed Sudyka, Training Director
Martin Clemson, Admin. Asst.
831.633.3063 office
831.633.3068 fax

Tricountyjatc@sbcglobal.net

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2008!

My hopes for the New Year:

To partner with Hartnell College to be able to offer JW courses that will teach what you all want to learn and that can be used for Certification renewal hours.

To be more responsive to your requests for classes as you seek to increase your knowledge and skills in the electrical field.

To gather a team of volunteers that will restore our rooftop Solar Photovoltaic System to operating condition.

To enlist mentors for some of our apprentices who need help on mathematics or electrical theory or conduit bending, and who need a resource outside of the classroom to learn these skills.

To continue to investigate the possibility of constructing a “hands-on” training building in the space next to the current Training Center.

To increase my outreach efforts to recruit a larger number of minorities into the apprenticeship program in an effort to attain our “Cal-Plan” requirements. (I am very open to suggestions on how to do this!)

To make more seamless the process of evaluating and integrating into the apprenticeship program or into the Journeyman community those electricians who the Local Union organizes.

About those Certification Renewal classes:

A few course suggestions, if you're really, really anxious to get the need for 32 hours in 3 years of Continuing Education prior to 2009 California Electrical Certification renewal behind you- Enroll in one of these night classes at a local Junior College:

Hartnell College, Spring Semester January 28 to June 6:

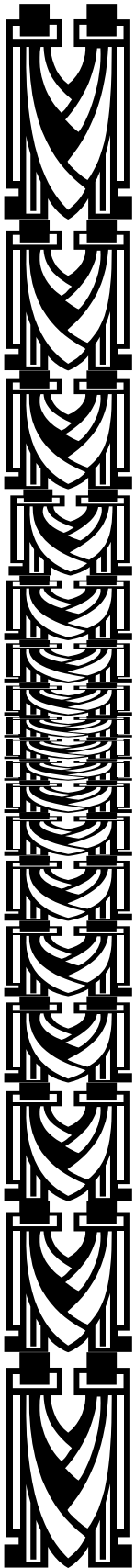
- A. CON-71, "Residential Electrical", Section #1355. This class is on Monday and Wednesday evening. At 5 hours per week, that would give you 90 hours or so of instruction!
- B. ELE-52 "Electronic Fundamentals" Section #1504. The schedule describes this class as having "emphasis on industrial electrical controls and instrumentation". Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 or so. 60 or more hours!
- C. ELE-151 "D.C. Circuit Analysis", Section #1507. Tuesday afternoons from 4:30 to 5:45. At least 18 hours!
- D. EGN-6 "Introduction to Circuit Analysis", Section #5089. Tues. and Thurs. from 6 to 9. As long as you can perform "Differential Equations" you can gain over 60 hours in this class.

Cabrillo College, Spring Semester, February 11 to June 7:

- A. CEM 155 "Blueprint Reading", Section #55329. Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9:10 p.m. That would be around 54 hours of instruction.
- B. CEM 159 "Construction Planning and Scheduling", Section 55330. Wednesdays evenings from 6 to 8:10 p.m. Another 54 hours of instruction.
- C. CEM 162SP "Solar Photovoltaic Design and Installation", Section 57047. Thursday evenings from 6 to 10:15 p.m. plus another 1 hr. 15 min. per week. Easily 54 hours of instruction on a timely and relevant topic!
- D. CEM 175B "Electric Code and Materials 2: Commercial", Section 55335. Thursday evenings from 6 to 9:10 p.m. Around 54 hours of instruction.

Sorry, an overview of Monterey Peninsula College's Spring schedule didn't show any of these "electrical" type of classes!

If you need any additional information on how to enroll in these classes, please call us here at the Training Center at 633-3063.





Frank Aldape

234 Member Profile:

Questions & Answers with Frank Aldape.

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

Why did you become a member and what was that experience like?

- 1) Raise my living standards for my family and myself*
- 2) Great experience with hard work*

Who do you work for now and in what capacity?

- 1) Collins (Rangers) Electrical Co.*
- 2) Collins Ranger Journeyman*

What do you enjoy most about the electrical trade?
Money Money

What do you do to participate in the union or to make it better?
Organize

What is the greatest benefit that you have received as an IBEW 234 member?

- 1) Making good friends*
- 2) Becoming a good electrician*

Do you have any advice for new union members, either Apprentices or Journeymen?

*Listen to your Journeyman.
Listen to your foreman.*

Any closing comments?

Work is no stranger to a Collins Ranger.

“The American Labor Movement has consistently demonstrated its devotion to the public interest. It is, and has been, good for all America.”

- John F. Kennedy

Local 234 Food Drive for the Second Harvest Food Bank

The food drive for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties was another success this year. Thanks mostly to our apprentices, Local 234 generated \$642 in cash donations along with 72lbs of food. The LMCC agreed to provide a pizza dinner for the class with the biggest donation. The 5th year class won the challenge by a respectable amount. The 3rd year class was the runner up. A big thanks to our apprentices for helping Local 234 stand out yet again. Recently, Local 234 donated, from the General Fund, \$225 to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

This Month's Local 234 Winners!

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

C.O.P.E. (Committee on Political Education) Drawing:
Paul Gutierrez won \$18.00 and donated it back.

Apprentice Drawing:
Michael Magana won \$23.40.

Raffle Winners:
Frank Riviera won a water bottle.
Rip Smith won a 30' tape measure.
Woody Carey won another drink cosey.
Charlie Ruiz won a flashlight.
Paul Gutierrez won an IBEW decanter.

New Members Initiated

Please welcome the following new Local 234 members:

Sergio Castillo

Carlito Scott

Steve Petree

Michael Magana

The next general membership meeting will be **Wednesday, January 9, 2007 @ 6:30 pm.**

January 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day (Holiday)	2 Resign Ends	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	10	11	12
13	14	15 Resign Begins	16	17	18	19
20	21 MLK, Jr. (Holiday)	22 JATC @ 6pm	23 E-Board @ 6pm	24	25	26
27 End of Pay Period	28	29	30	31		

10300 Merritt Street
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

www.ibew234.org



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New T-Shirts and Hats are In!

We now have new t-shirts, with two (2) new designs. We also have long-sleeve shirts for the cold winter months. The t-shirts cost \$15 and the long-sleeve are \$17. In addition, we have a new style of hat available. Hats cost \$15.

We asked in the last newsletter if anyone would like to order a hooded sweatshirt or embroidered jacket? If we get enough members interested we can put together an order. Stop by the hall or give us a call with your size and color preference (831) 633-2311.

A Call to Help a Brother

Recently, Brother Gary Riggs' house caught fire and burned a substantial portion of the house. Luckily, no one was injured. Unfortunately they lost most of their possessions in the house. At the last general membership meeting, the body voted to help Gary and his family with a \$500 donation. It was also suggested that Local 234 take up a collection for Brother Riggs. If you would like to make a contribution to Gary Riggs, stop by the hall or mail to:

Gary Riggs
C/O IBEW Local 234
10300 Merritt Street
Castroville, CA 95012

