

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

# Local 234 Newsletter



## Business Manager's Report by Ken Scherpinski

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

Congratulations to our Inside, Residential, and Sound & Communications apprentices who will be graduating this month. It has been a long, arduous journey. Their sacrifice and dedication can never be taken lightly. They have earned the respect due them of the membership. They are the future of the IBEW!

The month of May has been busy. I spent last week in Sacramento completing Business Manager training. I also went to Washington D.C., earlier this month, to finalize our Inside Agreement thru C.I.R. As of this printing, there are still a few details to work out. The new contract will be printed and distributed once the International sends them back with approval. I believe our new three year agreement will offer stability for both the members and contractors. It allows us to again focus on upcoming projects and take the steps necessary to secure these jobs for all concerned.

What do you do to promote the IBEW?

How do you introduce yourself and your profession to acquaintances?

Many of our members volunteer for school events, Little League, or Church events. You are in a great position to be an ambassador for local 234 and the IBEW. We do a lot of great things for our community. There is nothing wrong with mentioning your membership and that we want to help and be part of our neighborhoods.

As the summer months approach and we plan family vacations, remember to be safe and enjoy those special times with your family. They are truly priceless.

Remember to VOTE on Tuesday, June 3rd. Your voice needs to be heard for the concerns of labor.

**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



It's that time of year again.

Tuesday, June 3rd is Election Day.

Remember to cast your vote, whether in person or by mail.

When voting, know that it is crucial to support politicians who work to support the welfare of the working class. Read the voter information guide about the candidates and propositions and be an informed voter. If you are not registered to vote for the November 4th election, the deadline is October 20th. There are many ways to register: fill out an application online, have an application mailed to you, or stop by the county elections office, library, U.S. Post Office, or the Union Hall for an application. There is also information on the internet at [http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_vr.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm).

Voting is important, do your part to participate.

## Monthly Dues Have Decreased by 1%

The quarterly audit of the General Fund has called for the working dues to be reduced from 3% to 2% of gross earnings. There is an additional working dues of 3% paid to the Industry Advancement/Organizing Fund. This means the total working dues (General Fund and Industry Advancement/Organizing Fund) deducted from your check has decreased from 6% to 5% effective May 26, 2008. This will remain in effect unless the balance in the General Fund falls below \$200,000. All Contractors have been notified about the change in working dues.

This effects workers under the Inside and Residential Agreements. Sounds and Communications working dues remain the same.



## Trick of the Trade: Cutting Sealtight



Ever have a hard time cutting sealtight? Here's a couple of good tricks to make it easier. Take a pair of Klein's and place them on the ground with the jaws open and pointing up. Place the sealtight in the jaws then use a hacksaw to cut the sealtight. The Klein's act like a vice to hold the sealtight in place. This makes for a clean cut. Another trick is to use a ladder. Place the sealtight between the second rung carriage bolt heads (about knee level, parallel with the rungs) and then clamp with your free hand while you use a hacksaw to cut with the other. This also makes for a clean cut.

## Congratulations to the Graduating Apprentices of 2008

To the graduating classes of IBEW 234:

The knowledge you have gained is only valuable if you share it with others. Take this opportunity and run with it. Allow no one to stand in your way or impede the great things you are destined to accomplish. It is also your time to give support to the apprentices who are following in your footsteps. Good luck Journeymen and stay involved.

### Inside Apprenticeship:

Ismael Estrada	Valentin Ivanov	Felipe Jimenez	Rodolfo Martinez	Frank Rivera
Mike Rodda	David White			

### Residential Apprenticeship:

Israel Andrade	Bronson Huerta	Michael Kulich	Philippe Miccoli	Joshua Murray
Ryan Ochiner	Mario Zamora	Moises Zuniga		

### Sound & Communications Apprenticeship:

David Boggs

## Manage your 9th District Pension Plan

Get the help of a Financial Representative

**Wednesday, June 11th Starting at 3pm.**

and

**Wednesday, June 25th 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



# June 2008 JATC Training News

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee

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

Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz Counties

## Upgrade Classes This Summer at the Training Center:

### Electrical Project Supervision (Foreman's Class) Level 1

June 7, Saturday, 8 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.

### Electrical Project Supervision (Foreman's Class) Level 2

July 12, Saturday, 8 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.

### Electrical Project Supervision (Foreman's Class) Level 3

Aug. 9, Saturday, 8 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.

EPS 1,2 & 3 Instructor: Steve Asay

### Significant Changes to the 2005 National Electric Code

Mondays, beginning June 2 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Instructor: David Martinez

Other classes coming, not scheduled yet (July?):

Basic Motor Controls (Tuesday evenings?)

CPR/ First Responder renewal (Saturday class)

How to Use and Read a Digital Multi-Meter (3 hour class)

Small Conduit Bending Class

Large Conduit Bending Class

Call today to get your name on these class lists if you haven't done so already! 633-3063. If you are already on a class list, we'll contact you regarding class start date and times.

From the Training Director:

It's summer time, and the apprentices are out of school... or are they? Turns out we have quite a few apprentices who you'll meet if you take some of the Upgrade classes listed on the other side of this page. These apprentices are motivated to continue their education right on through the summer when opportunity presents itself! I'm impressed!

And how about that graduating 5th year class... 6 out of 7 have signed up for the Foreman's Level 1 class June 7th! Moving up to JW's and now looking beyond!

We've got plenty of projects available here at the Training Center now that school is out. If any of you members want to donate some of your time and talent getting the place ready for next year's classes and more hands-on type training, give me a call and I'll give you a project! If you can help out a little or help out a lot, it will all be appreciated! Thanks.... -Ed

#### RUSTY USED STRUT AVAILABLE FOR THE TAKING!



Taken down from the disassembly of the Solar Photovoltaic panels on the roof of the Training Center. Bring your hacksaw or chopsaw, some of the pieces are 20 foot long! No extra charge for the rust! First come, first served.

The JATC and the Training Director would like to thank Ernesto Morales and Mario Vera for presenting the electrical apprenticeship program opportunity to students at the Salinas R.O.P. Career Fair Thursday, May 29. **Thanks Ernesto and Mario!**

**May Question of the Month:** Does the NEC ever address the issue of ambient temperature adjustment factors for rooftop installations?

**Answer:** In the 2005 NEC, recently adopted by the State of California as the current code, Fine Print Note #2 in 310.10 addresses this issue. A study was done that determined conductors in conduit can be up to 30 degrees F. hotter than ambient when installed on a rooftop.

A Fine Print Note is only advisory, however. The 2005 NEC has not made derating for this rooftop temperature a mandatory requirement. Stay tuned to see if the 2008 NEC changes that!

**June Question of the Month:** This question applies to all of you who work on fixed or freestanding type office partitions (cubicles!), so pay attention! According to the newly adopted 2005 NEC, **what does the Code now say about the source of power for the ungrounded circuits feeding these partitions?** This is a change to the NEC, so you need to know this Code change when you wire up these cubes from here on out!

## Mesothelioma and Local 234 Member Glen Blacklock

Glenn Blacklock recently passed due to mesothelioma. The following is a letter written by his son, Timothy Blacklock. For more information about mesothelioma visit <http://www.mesothelioma.org/>

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My brother, Gary Blacklock, asked me to email you regarding the death of our father, Glenn A Blacklock. I will include a brief history and his death from mesothelioma, which he contracted during the many years he worked as an electrician out of your local.

Glenn was born October 18, 1924, and died on April 26, 2008. He was raised on a small family farm in Hollister, California. He went to war at an early age, becoming a First Lieutenant. He flew with a crew on a B24 Liberator, and won the Distinguished Flying Cross and other medals.

On his return from war, he settled in Salinas and became an electrician. He worked in that capacity until 1979, when he relocated to Oregon. In 1981 he became Linn County Electrical Inspector. He retired in 1989.

About a year ago he developed a cough, and it was discovered he had water pockets around his right lung. They drained a liter of fluid twice, and it was determined he had lung cancer (he never smoked), and the type was mesothelioma. This can only be contracted by asbestos exposure. He fought a year long battle with chemo and radiation therapy, but this type of cancer is very aggressive.

While many people do not sue, believing all of the asbestos firms have gone bankrupt or out of business, we did sue. It was quite an enlightening experience. Another wrong belief is that only certain materials contained asbestos. In fact, everything from plaster to tile was asbestos containing. We sued 29 companies, but many were dismissed. We ended up with settlements of very significant amounts. An example is GE, which settled for \$700,000. One firm, Georgia Pacific, did not settle, and now has a wrongful death suit on their hands. A jury awarded a widow, the last time this happened, 23 million dollars. Appeals brought it down to 8 million dollars.

Most construction workers who worked during the years my father did were exposed to asbestos in multitudes of products. Those who contract mesothelioma should be made aware that years taken from the loved ones life can be compensated. However, the money could go right back to where it came from if it could give back my dad's years he lost.

Our litigators are Simon, Eddins & Greenstone, LLP and Roger Worthington, two separate firms that have joined force with knowledge of asbestos products. My advice would be to sue in California, as it requires the lawyers on both sides be in court within 5 months, meaning mesothelioma victims would be far enough from death that they can contribute to the litigation, something my father was able to do. My father had wanted to live long enough to see his first check - it arrived two days after his death.

If I can help with anything further, please let me know. My brother, Gary, does hold Power of Attorney, and is quite involved in the litigation, he might be your best bet. He is at [blackiesplace@proaxis.com](mailto:blackiesplace@proaxis.com).

Thank you.

Timothy Blacklock

## This Month's Local 234 Winners!

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

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

Woody Carey won \$11.50 and donated it back.

### Apprentice Drawing:

Valentin Ivanov won \$23.40.

### Raffle Winners:

Bob Dollins won a Lenox Water Cooler.

Mike Rodda won a t-shirt.

Mike Ihnot won an Ideal inflatable fish steel.

Stefan Marceron won an Ideal inflatable fish steel and donated it to the JATC.

The next general membership meeting will be  
**Wednesday, June 11, 2008 @ 6:30 pm.**

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“Those who stay away from the election think that one vote will do no good: 'Tis but one step more to think one vote will do no harm.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

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# June 2008

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

## Photovoltaic Panels



The photovoltaic system that was installed on the roof of the Union Hall has been taken down. It has been shut down and off-line for over a year now. Mark Rosas and the third year class recently spent some time up on the roof dismantling the photovoltaic system. The panels were outdated, damaged, and not replaceable. There were errors on the invertors and that's why they were both shut off. Since the system has been dismantled, if anyone would like to have the remnants, they are available. There are approximately 30 panels left. They are 48 watts each, less degradation from time. Removing the photovoltaic system from the roof has enabled the JATC to seek bids for repairing some leaks in the roof. So what's in the works next? We are in the planning phase of installing a new photovoltaic system for the Union Hall. The new system will be a covered walkway over the sidewalk and separate from the building. This will allow for superb ventilation, optimized solar exposure angle, and visibility/marketability. The new system is estimated at 7.5kw. The old system was about 2.4kw. We are having the support structure engineered right now. The next step will be installing the support structure and then ordering the photovoltaic materials. There is a company that works with the NJATC, SunWize, that will give us a discounted rate on the materials plus free shipping. We plan on working with the JATC to put on a class and have our membership install the panels and inverter. The new system will have an internet hookup which allows for 24/7 monitoring of output and usage. Contact us if you would like to come pick up some of the remaining panels. Thanks to the third year class for dismantling the old system.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

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«field1» «field2» «field3»

«field4»

«field5»

