

# Local 234 Newsletter



## Business Manager's Report by Ken Scherpinski

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

I hope things are going well during this winter season. The work picture for the local is holding steady and our contractors are doing a good job trying to secure future projects. We are tracking a few projects ourselves: A waste water treatment plant in Soledad, a bio-tech building at UCSC and a major remodel at SVMH.

In establishing better relationships with our local contractors, we had our first joint board meeting between local 234's Executive Board and the NECA Board. Also in attendance were LMCC delegate Chris Kiner, Negotiating committee members Al Randall and Paul Gutierrez, and one representative from each of our Inside apprenticeship classes. I felt it was a great venue for expressing some of our concerns about the industry associated with gaining market share, keeping our graduating journeymen working in our local, and the expectations of the IBEW related to professionalism, job site appearance, and work ethic. We also received some valuable perspectives on the challenges facing our contractors in terms of competitive job bidding and business costs. I know by working together there is a greater chance of overcoming the challenges of the present market conditions. We are moving forward with a proactive approach toward future threats of our industry.

I recently attended the 9<sup>th</sup> District Business Managers meeting. Many locals noted they are experiencing steady work through out the Northern Bay Area. The 9<sup>th</sup> District has grown 15% from 2006 to 2007. Total nation wide IBEW membership has grown to 705,743. The challenge we all share is "How do we increase our contractor base?" I feel if we are training the best electricians in the industry then why aren't we training a contractor base from within our own family?

There will be new Health Care I.D. cards issued. The cards should have all our insurance information on the front and back. You should receive them soon. There will also be a health care information seminar at the hall. Information will follow in an upcoming newsletter.

The answer to last months agreement question can be found in Article III section 3.05(a). The question this month is "What are the qualifications to be a working member/contractor?" (One-man shop).

Enjoy the Month of March and the beginning of spring. Remember to think 'GREEN;' Saint Patty's Day is March 17th.

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

## LMCC Buys Shirts for Apprentices

An apprentice recently made a suggestion to purchase shirts for all the apprentices to wear on jobsites. The idea gained support and was put into action by the LMCC. The shirts have been ordered and will be available soon. The wearing of these shirts will help demonstrate and advertise the pride of the Local 234 apprenticeship.



## Industry Night at the Hall

Everyone is welcome to attend a presentation on

**Tuesday, March 25th  
at 5pm**

by On-Q Legrand. The presentation is geared towards contractors however, members and apprentices are strongly encouraged to attend. The On-Q product line offers lighting control, audio, intercom, and camera systems all with easy Cat5 installation. All members and contractors are encouraged to attend.

**IBEW 234 invites you to**  
Come hear about On-Q's simplified solutions to offer your customers for Home Entertainment, Communications & Comfort

**When:** Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> | 5PM  
**Where:** 10300 Merritt Street | Castroville  
**Food & Beverage Provided**

**on·q**  
legrand

[www.onqlegrand.com](http://www.onqlegrand.com)

## IBEW Jackets are on Order!

The Union made, USA made, and Union printed jackets have been ordered. The Duck Thermal Hood jackets will have your name embroidered on the front. The IBEW logo with "IBEW" and "Local 234" will be on the back. The cost is approximately \$100. Call the hall if you would like to order one.

## Trick of the Trade: Pull a Full Boat by Yourself



Have you ever been in a situation where you need to pull wire and you don't have anyone to help you? Set up your wire rack, put all the wires together that you want to pull and then pull off the length you need. Back at the wire rack grab the wires and start to daisy chain the bundle (like an extension cord). After you reach the head you'll have an easy, manageable pile of wires. Put that either in a box or bucket near where you're pulling from and it should self-feed while you're on the other end pulling.

## The Month of March

American Red Cross Month

Women's History Month

Mardi Gras (February 4 to March 9)

Ash Wednesday (some Wednesday between February 4 to March 10)

Saint David's Day (March 1)

National Reading Day (United States) (March 2)

International Women's Day - March 8

Pluto Planet Day (New Mexico)- March 13

Pi Day (March 14)

The Ides of March, the anniversary of the assassination of Julius Caesar (March 15)

Remembering to the 1848's Hungarian Revolution (March 15)

Saint Patrick's Day (March 17)

Saint Joseph's Day (March 19)

The equinox named the vernal or spring equinox in the northern hemisphere and the autumnal equinox in the southern hemisphere occurs on dates varying from 19 March to 21 March.

Annunciation (March 25)

Norouz: New Year's Day in Iran and several other countries. A holiday in Turkey, Japan, and Central Asian countries as well.

Good Friday (some Friday between March 20 to April 23, being the last Friday before Easter)

Easter (some Sunday between March 22 to April 25)

Pakistan Day - March 23

Hanami, the traditional Japanese custom of enjoying the beauty of flowers starts in late March.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/March>



## Manage your 9th District Pension Plan

Get the help of a Financial Representative

**Thursday, March 20th Starting at 3pm.**

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



Call Toll-Free  
(800) 654-1485

Mark Foster, LUTCF

Senior Financial Representative

(408) 437-7220 Ext. 77220

[foster.mark@principal.com](mailto:foster.mark@principal.com)

or

James Boisse

Financial Representative

(408) 437-7200 Ext. 77245

(510) 409-2886 cell

[boisse.james@principal.com](mailto:boisse.james@principal.com)



# JATC Training News

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee

March 2008

Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz

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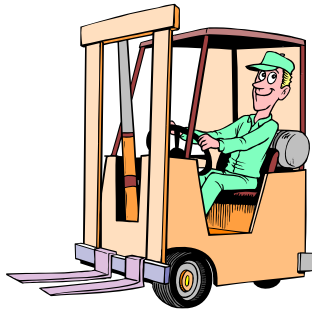
The following is a list of classes that the JATC may be offering for JW Upgrade. At this time the folks who run the Electrical Certification program in California are holding public comment sessions for the rule making committee that is trying to decide whether or not JATC's can independently offer these classes and have them count for certification renewal continuing education hours. That decision should be made... soon?

Meanwhile, please contact (call, write, email, come on by) the JATC office and let us know if: 1. You still want to take one of these classes and 2. If you don't care that the State may not count the hours of instruction you spend in the class for certification renewal, darn it, you want to become a better educated electrician and you'll take the class anyway!

I'm hoping that the certification folks will move to let these classes count, but meanwhile, it has been a long time since we've put on much in the way of JW classes... the Committee would like me to quit the stalling and get some classes going!

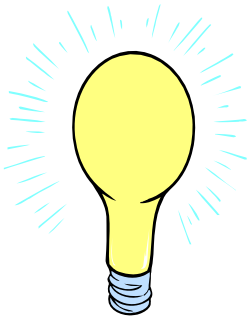
*Possible upcoming JW Upgrade classes to be offered:*

2005/2008 NEC Code Upgrade class	Fire Alarm (FA) Installation
Code Calculations class	FA/Life Safety State Cert. Prep.
Small conduit bending class	Grounding
Large conduit bending class	Motors
CPR/First Responder recertification	Motor Controls, Basic
Project Take-off class	Motor Controls, Advanced
Electrical Project Supervision Level I	Programmable Controls
EPS Level II	Cal Trans Traffic Signal Certification
EPS Level III	Variable Frequency Drives



Question: What about those classes for fork lift and man lift certification? Why aren't they mentioned here anymore?

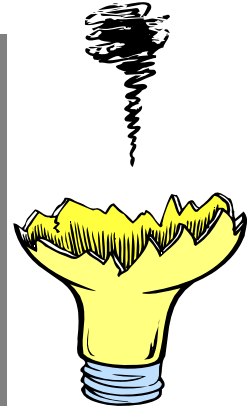
Answer: The JATC is working on the budget for the upcoming year. It turns out that the pricing for the forklift and manlift certification training is quite expensive, so the JATC wants to see if it can fit it in the budget before we proceed with scheduling. Thanks for your patience!



### LOOKING FOR WORK:

#### UNEMPLOYED RESIDENTIAL APPRENTICES!

If you know of any job opportunities that could help out one of our several unemployed Residential apprentices, please call Ed, the Training Director, at 633-3063. Caught up in the hard times of the housing market, these folks find themselves without a job but still attending classes.



Upcoming Electrical Safety Class: April 14, 15 and 16 our JATC will be hosting an Electrical Safety-Related Work Practices based on the NFPA 70E Standard. This class will be taught by Palmer Hickman of the NJATC, and is being advertised nationwide. It is a Train-the-Trainer class, and is designed to provide the participant with the knowledge and skills to be able to teach to others. Cost is \$450.00 per participant, call 633-3063 if interested!

### Question of the Month, for a free liter of soda...

But first, the answer to the February "Question of the Month":

A 20 amp GFCI receptacle can have a 15 amp NEMA blade configuration primarily because the NEC permits all 15 amp receptacles to be used on 20 amp circuits. However, in the "guts" of the GFCI, a 20 amp rated contact exists to operate when the GFCI senses a fault to ground exceeding 5 mA. The 20 amp rating would allow that GFCI, with a 20 amp contact, to be used to protect downstream receptacles on a 20 amp circuit.

The Underwriters Listing (UL) White Book Standard for Safety for Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters, UL 943, requires that GFCI receptacles have their contact rating marked on the GFCI so that even if the configuration of the blades is 15 amp, the electrician will know that it has the ability to be used to protect those receptacles downstream on the 20 amp circuit.

QUESTION for this month:

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



Woody Carey

## 234 Member Profile:

Questions & Answers with Woody Carey.

What year apprentice are you?

*Second year.*

Who do you currently work for and what project are you on?

*Salinas Valley State Prison with JM Electric.*

What type of work are you doing?

*Roughing in lighting boxes and pulling wire.*

What Journeyman are you currently working with?

*Carlos Vargas.*

What is something interesting they have taught you on the job?

*How to bend one inch rigid by hand.*

How did you find out about the apprenticeship?

*Online.*

What was the application process like?

*Ed Sudyka made the application process clean and straightforward, one application form and two tests.*

What is one thing you really enjoy or appreciate about the apprenticeship?

*40 hours of work every week.*

If you had one suggestion to improve either this local or the apprenticeship, what would it be?

*We all need to understand our share of the market is low. We have the opportunity to become more relevant.*

Anything you would like to share with your sisters and brothers?

*Stay healthy and safe.*

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"We must learn to live together as brothers or we are going to perish together as fools."

- **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

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## This Month's Local 234 Winners!

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

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

Sue Carter won \$25.00 and donated it back.

### Apprentice Drawing:

Frank Rivera won \$23.40.

### Raffle Winners:

Scott Tschumperlin won a buck knife.

Woody Carey won a Klein tool bag.

Valentin Ivanov won a kids IBEW t-shirt.

David White won an IBEW canvas bag.

The next general membership meeting will be  
**Wednesday, March 12, 2008 @ 6:30 pm.**

**New Members Initiated**

Please welcome the following new Local 234 members:

Scott Tschumperlin  
Peggy Evans

# March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 LMCC @ 5:30pm	5 Resign Ends	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Union Meeting	13	14	15
16	17 Resign Begins	18 JATC @ 6pm	19	20	21	22
23 End of Pay	24	25	26 E-Board @ 6pm	27	28	29
30	31					

## Jobsite Banners Help Advertise Local 234!

We are using different methods of advertising, in order to promote Local 234 and create more awareness of the IBEW. The LMCC has helped with this effort by sponsoring jobsite banners for our signatory contractors. The banners are 3' X 5' on a white background. A few of our contractors have already taken advantage of this generous offer. Look for these banners to appear on jobsites throughout our jurisdiction!



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

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

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