



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

IBEW Local 234

Newsletter

Monterey, San Benito, & Santa Cruz Counties

August 2009

Local 234 Officers:
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Business Manager

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President

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Vice President

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Business Manager's Report by Ken Scherpinski

Greetings

Sisters & Brothers,

Work still has not taken off as we had hoped for the summer. There are some calls on the jobs we have as well as a couple of projects with Cupertino and Sprig at UCSC coming up. We currently have 34 members on book 1, 48 on book 2. There have been calls out for one or two Journeymen recently. I know our contractors are

aggressively bidding jobs and we are working together, looking at the situation from many different angles in hopes of getting all of our members back to work.

Health reform is on the table for all Americans. The Senate Health Committee cast a milestone vote to approve expanding insurance coverage to nearly all Americans, becoming the first congressional panel to act on President Obama's top domestic priority. This legislation is but one piece of a broader Senate bill still under development. House Democratic leaders pledged to meet the President's goal of health care, that for the first time would make health care a right and a responsibility for all Americans. Left to pick up the bulk of the tag would be medical providers, employers and the top 1% most wealthy.

Republicans believe that the last thing the American people want is the government telling them where, when or how to receive medical care for themselves and their families. It seems they are not considering institutions like Medicare and Veterans' hospitals as government run health care plans?

The next Code of Excellence class will be held August 20th. If you have not signed up yet, please work an upcoming class into your schedule and help our Local to meet the goal of being 100% COE certified. Call the office to register.

We still need to grow our Membership Development Volunteer Organizing Committee (MDVOC). It will be meeting at 5:00pm on the second Wednesday of each month prior to the regular general membership meeting that starts at 6:30pm. For more details contact Paul or Andy.

The Local 234 picnic is going to be held this month on Saturday, August 22nd at Toro Park. The event is a great time to visit with fellow members and their families outside the work place. I strongly encourage you to attend. There is great food and lots of fun activities for the whole family! Call the office to sign up and get a free parking pass sent prior to the event. See the back page for more details.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to represent Local 234. I continue to work hard to bring our electrical union, emphasizing our needs and concerns, to the forefront of the various political entities, both city and county, who represent our tri-county area. Having the opportunity to work with them will greatly enhance our future.

As summer comes to an end, I wish good health and safe journeys to you and your families.



Salting is a Benefit for Union Members

Have you ever considered Salting to be a benefit to union members? Usually union members only work for union contractors. However, with Salting, union members also have the opportunity to work for non-union contractors. This gives union members another advantage over non-members. Union members have the ability to work for all contractors. Non-union workers only work for non-union contractors. In addition, Salting is a benefit because once on the job, union members can readily demonstrate their skill, knowledge, and ability. Salting is on the front line of organizing. Through Salting, contractors directly see what it is like to work with union members and interact with the union.

If you're interested in Salting, inform the Business Manager or Organizers. Salts who seek and/or obtain employment with non-union contractors must, before seeking such employment, execute and agree to be bound by the Local Union's Salting Agreement. If not, you could be subject to discipline by the Local. The Local acts as the sole source of referral. This would apply to this situation as well. We would like to be methodical about which contractor you work for. Remember the bigger picture is about organizing. There is still a win-win situation because our members go to work instead of sitting on the book, the contractor gets the help they need to finish the job, and additionally the contractor will learn the benefits of being signatory.

IBEW Launches New 'Working Green' Website

The International Office (ibew.org) recently launched "Working Green," a new section on its website dedicated to keeping members, contractors and others looking to break into the new energy economy updated on the latest news about the union's role in the green revolution.

IBEW is aggressively training and preparing its members to help transform the nation's struggling economy through a range of environmental investments in green technology, energy efficiency and renewable energy. The new site offers news stories about IBEW members working in solar, wind, biomass, nuclear power and clean coal, as well as information about green training and how to find work in the renewable energy sector.

Check out the site at <http://www.ibew.org/WorkingGreen/index.htm>

Two-Day Hands-On Solar Training

Local 234, through the help of our LMCC, will be hosting, at our Training Center, a two-day intensive hands-on solar (photovoltaic) training course for members on November 7 & 8. Call today to reserve your place (831) 633-3063. This class will accommodate 200 Electricians and Apprentices. The class will cover all aspects of a solar installation from site evaluation to design and installation.

Code of Excellence Class

As skilled, qualified, and professional IBEW members, we know we face competition for our work as never before. The Code of Excellence Program was developed to insure that IBEW members retain and grow our opportunities for continued employment and success on the job by increasing our pride and professionalism.

Only by being the best can we insure our standards of living and job security. The Code of Excellence is our commitment to our union and ourselves.

A Code of Excellence Classes will be held each month. Reserve your place!

When: Thursday, August 20th

5pm-7pm

Where: Local 234 Training Center



Professional & Industrial Organizing by Ray Strain

I am writing today to request your help. Sound familiar? It should. Because everything that happens with the IBEW is about you, the membership. And it always boils down to how the membership encourages and supports what your elected officers and paid staff are working on to improve our collective bargaining strength.

In this case, I am speaking of the relatively recent push for the organizing of the Professional and Industrial sector of the IBEW. This involves each and every member of this union of ours. The reduction of our membership due to the losses in manufacturing affects us all. The outsourcing, downsizing, right sizing and any number of ways the employers can dream up to reduce our numbers and dilute our strength in the political world and at the bargaining table also affects us all.

The IBEW has been developing the Professional and Industrial Organizing Department (P&I) over the past several years and, thanks to the cooperation of the Local Unions, we are well on our way to putting the structure in place. We now have Lead Organizers who are working the areas of the IBEW known as Organizing Councils. These are volunteer members experienced at organizing who have stepped up to try to turn the tide of the losses that have been bringing our numbers down. The Lead Organizers are working at organizing those in our industries and the new emerging energy fields; but, we need your help now more than ever.

In order to better explain what we mean by P&I organizing, I include the following list.

Example of potential targets the IBEW should research and evaluate:

Unorganized units of employers where the IBEW has some members under contract both on-site and at other sites.

- Unorganized utilities, including electric, gas, water and others.
- Utility workers (and private) represented by convenience employee associations.
- Unorganized subsidiaries of companies with IBEW contracts.
- Unorganized companies that compete in the green energy industry; wind, solar, geothermal, hydro, auditing, inspections, retrofit, etc.
- Unorganized companies that compete with companies that have IBEW contracts.
- Unorganized companies or agencies that supply substantial amounts of goods and services to companies or agencies with IBEW contracts.
- Electrical contractors that are signatory with convenience unions.
- Unorganized telecommunications, CATV and related companies.
- Unorganized manufacturers of electrical, electronic, wire, cable, lighting fixtures and other related companies.

Again, we are asking for your help to identify these industries that you are familiar with and may have some knowledge of in your own area. These are the types of company's we have identified that will have a positive effect on our union and we will have some influence in bargaining a contract for these people. You are the one who will make the difference in the IBEW's mission to organize the unorganized in these industries. It is absolutely necessary that we regain our strength in the future for not only ourselves but also for our children.

Please let us know through your Local Union of any contacts you may have with workers in these industries and any help you may be willing to give to advance your IBEW.

Local 234 Seeking LEED Certification

Local 234, a member of the USGBC, is working with Joe Piedamonte, a LEED AP, of Ausonio Construction to achieve LEED Certification for our Union Hall and Training Center. LEED certification provides independent, third-party verification that a building meets the highest green building and performance measures. LEED-certified buildings are designed to lower operating costs and increase asset value, reduce waste sent to landfills, conserve energy and water, be healthier and safer for occupants, reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, qualify for tax rebates, zoning allowances and other incentives, and demonstrate an owner's commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

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Please let us know through your Local Union of any contacts you may have with workers in these industries and any help you may be willing to give to advance your IBEW.





JATC Training News

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Center

Ed Sudyka, Training Director
 Vivian Frashier, Admin. Asst.
 831.633.3063 office
 831.633.3068 fax
 trainingibew234@sbcglobal.net

Monterey, San Benito, & Santa Cruz Counties

“Hang in there, baby!” That’s what it says on the that poster where you see a cat hanging on by his front paws for dear life while his hind legs dangle in mid air. The nation is feeling a major pinch on the economy. The Tri-County JATC is no exception and the Committee is considering different options for maintaining a healthy electrical apprenticeship program.

One of those options is the likelihood of the apprentices paying for their class books this school year. The book costs are listed below. The Committee is planning to help with this unexpected cost to the apprentices by providing a payment plan that will spread the cost throughout the school year. Once the details of the payment plan are determined, the information will be shared with the apprentices in a future newsletter and/or by the class instructor.

As announced in last month’s newsletter, we are also asking apprentices to donate their books from prior school years to the JATC. Our response has been slow so an assertive approach is being taken as the first day of class approaches.

PLEASE DONATE YOUR SCHOOL BOOKS!!

Wow! Is that assertive enough for you? We are also canvassing, by phone, for the needed book donations as a reminder. We greatly appreciate the apprentices who have already donated and we sincerely hope that more will follow.

Special Thanks to the following book donors

Arturo Herrera	Luke Poljak	Abraham Adams
Enrique Lara	Devin Fehn	Joshua Murray
Christopher Burditt	Jose Recio, Jr.	Moises Zuniga
Keith Rudd	Nicholas Prelgovisk	Jaime Urzua

2009-2010 Apprenticeship class	Workbook Cost	Text Book Cost	Total Cost
First Year	\$145.80	\$297.00	\$442.80
Second Year	\$129.60	\$181.44	\$311.04
Third Year	\$102.60	\$145.80	\$248.40
Fourth Year	\$156.60	\$297.00	\$453.60
Fifth Year	\$145.80	\$361.80	\$507.60

Which is it? Ro-Dee-O or Ro-Day-O

Now that I have your attention, we're talking about the Apprentice Rodeo to be held at the IBEW picnic on August 22. The winners (*a winner and alternate*) of this local competition will then travel to compete at the Western Regional in Oregon on September 19 against other JATC "best apprentices" from across the nation in such events as material identification, motor control diagram and wiring, 1/2 & 3/4 conduit bending, residential wiring and a written test on subject matter yrs 1-5. The Oregon trip weekend will also include an exciting river trip and a fun BBQ at a ranch. If you are still hemming and hawing, then maybe a little moolah is needed to spice up the offer to get the apprentices to participate.

The Union is paying \$100 (that's right!) to each apprentice that competes in the local competition and \$500 (holy moly!) to the winner that is going north to represent us.

Dare to compete and call Ed to let him know you are up to the challenge! 633-3063!

Renewal Certification Questions

When do I have to renew? Answer: To renew the certification, an electrician must do so before expiration to ensure certification does not lapse. Certification expires three years from effective date. Please refer to your certification card for your expiration date.

What do I need to do to renew? Answer: A certified electrician must work 2,000 hours in the industry and take 32 hours of continuing education relevant to your category of certification that is being requested in order to renew.

How do I apply for renewal? Answer: To renew, fill out the application form found on the DAS Website. Submit application along with payment of \$100 per Certificate being renewed. DAS accepts payment only by check or money order payable to: DIR - Electrician Certification Fund. Payment must be included for certification to be renewed. The electrician will also be able to call (415) 703-4919 to request the form be sent by mail.

Who may offer continuing education?

- 1) community colleges, public school districts, public educational institutions; or,
- 2) a state-licensed private post-secondary institution under contract with a community college, public school district, or public educational institution; or,
- 3) federal or state apprenticeship programs.

We're Baaack... to School Night

Class will start **September 10th** for **ALL** classes with everyone together for a gala kickoff for the upcoming school year. The following week, 2nd year will go to the Monday/Wednesday schedule and 3rd, 4th and 5th year will be on the Tuesday/Thursday schedule. We look forward to seeing you all on September 10th!

Pay It Forward and Volunteer

*We are looking for a few generous souls who will volunteer to paint the Training Center interior during the week of **August 10 through 14**. Any days you can afford would be a big help. Call Ed at 633-3063 if you have a helping hand.*

Monterey Bay CLC Labor Day Picnic

IBEW Local 234 purchased (10) tickets for the Monterey Bay Central Labor Council Labor Day Picnic. Contact us if you would like to go.

Monday, September 7th

12 noon to 4pm

DeLaveaga Park, Santa Cruz

Park entrance at 850 Branciforte Drive, Santa Cruz

Join fellow union members and friends of labor for a great day of fun and celebration! Bring the family! There will be supervised kids' games, solidarity songs, and more!

REDUCE-REUSE-RECYCLE: Bring your own plate, cup, and utensils to win a prize!!!

MDVOC Meeting



The success of a union is based largely on the participation and support of its members. This is your opportunity to participate. We are asking members to help by occasionally attending city council meetings, county supervisor meetings, or school board meetings and then providing a brief report of what happened or to alert of an item of interest.

Join us Wednesday, August 12 @ 5pm at the Union Hall.

We will again be hosting our Membership Development Volunteer Organizing Committee (MDVOC) meeting. We have developed an online Google Group groups.google.com/group/ibew234. With the Google Group we can collaboratively work on various projects. Currently on the site we have maps and meeting times for City Council, County Supervisor, and school board meetings. Create a Google account and subscribe to the ibew234 group. We have also set up a Twitter account www.twitter.com/ibew234. Call Andy at (831) 594-7471 if you would like any help.

Go Electric, Go Green!

Sign up today to receive this newsletter in your email as a PDF attachment. There are many free PDF viewers available for download. **Go Green!** And help us reduce our production costs while reducing waste. Our webpage is located at www.ibew234.org. There is a link under Downloads, Newsletter to the subscribe form.

Or type www.ibew234.org/resources/subscribe.lasso into your web browser.

Call the office if you would like any help.



Happy August Birthday to the Following Members:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Dan Baroni | Daniel Day | Scott McGrath |
| Joe Baxter | Michael Dempsey | Robert Miller |
| Mark Behnke | George Dimas | Joel Montes |
| Corey Branco | Stephen Gilbert | Jesus Morales |
| Paul Brooks | David Goddard | John Radich |
| Tighe Callahan | Hector Haro | Albert Randall |
| Robert Campbell | Gregory Hilliker | David Rubens |
| Brian Carroll | Richard Holm | Peter Salvatore |
| Javierto Castillo Jr | Mike Houston | Edward Sudyka |
| Miguel Cervantes | Felipe Jimenez | Herman Taube |
| Bryan Daniel | Gustavo Lizarraga Jr. | James Taylor |
| Mark Davies | Igor Malyghin | Pedro Trujillo |



This Month's Local 234 Winners!

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

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

Sue Carter won \$15.00 and donated it back.

Apprentice Give-Away:

Ray Sykes II won \$23.40.

Give-Away Winners:

Daniel Gilbertson won a Channel Lock Plier.

Mike Ihnot won an IBEW Hat.

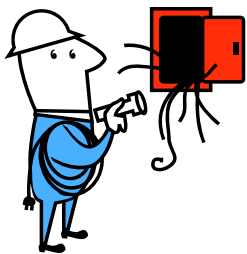


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"Kids don't have a little brother working in the coal mine, they don't have a little sister coughing her lungs out in the looms of the big mill towns of the Northeast. Why? Because we organized; we broke the back of the sweatshops in this country; we have child labor laws. Those were not benevolent gifts from enlightened management. They were fought for, they were bled for, they were died for by working people, by people like us. Kids ought to know that. That's why I sing these songs. That's why I tell these stories, dammit. No root, no fruit!"

-- Utah Phillips

The next general membership meeting will be



**Wednesday, August
12th, 2009 @ 6:30 pm.**

August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 LMCC @ 4pm Solar Class @ 5:30pm	5	6 Solar Class @ 5:30pm	7	8 OSHA 30 @ 8am
9	10	11 Solar Class @ 5:30pm	12 MDVOC @ 5pm Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	13 Solar Class @ 5:30pm	14	15 OSHA 30 @ 8am
16	17	18 JATC @ 5pm Solar Class @ 5:30pm	19	20 COE @ 5pm Solar Class @ 5:30pm	21	22 Local 234 Picnic at Toro Park
23 End of Pay Period	24	25	26 Executive Board @ 6pm	27	28	29
30	31					

IBEW Local 234 Annual Picnic

You are cordially invited, along with your family, to join us for our annual picnic. IBEW 234 will again this year join forces with UA 62.

When: **August 22, 2009 11am-2pm**

Where: **Buckeye Area at Toro Park**

Toro Park is located at 501 Monterey Salinas Highway 68, Salinas, CA 93908

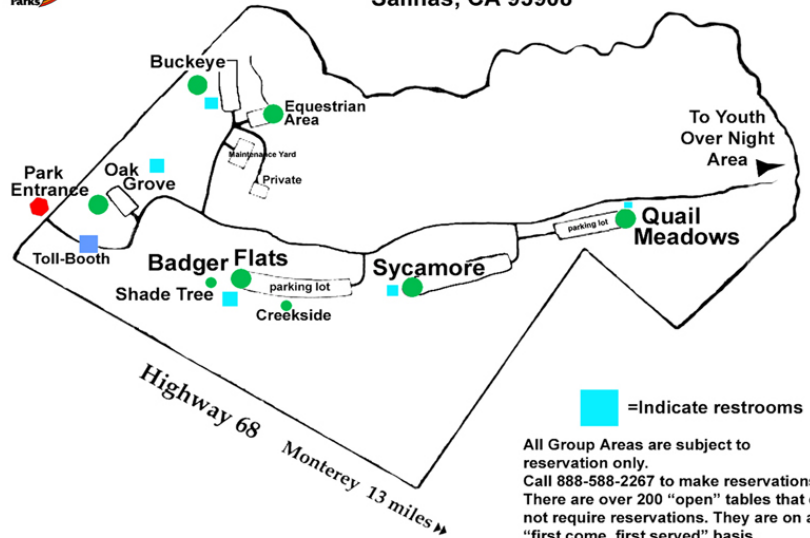
Please RSVP by Friday, August 14th with the IBEW Office so that we will have an accurate count and to receive your free parking pass (831) 633-2311 or (800) 499-4239. There is no cost to attend.

This year's picnic will include an Apprentice Rodeo, Incredibles Obstacle Challenge, Drawing for Prizes, Face Painting, Balloon Sculptures, and a Magic Show.



Toro Park Picnic Areas

501 Monterey Salinas Highway 68,
Salinas, CA 93908



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

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«field1» «field2» «field3»
 «field4»
 «field5»