



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

IBEW Local 234

Newsletter

Monterey, San Benito, & Santa Cruz Counties

July 2009

Business Manager's Report by Ken Scherpinski

Local 234 Officers:

Ken Scherpinski
Business Manager

Andy Hartmann
President

Charlie Ruiz
Vice President

Mike Ihnot
Treasurer

Stephen Slovacek
Recording Secretary/
Registrar

Anthony Davis
Andy Gattis
Rick Keaton
Richard Smith
Executive Board

Jeremy Bigman
Robert Campbell
Phil DiGirolamo
Mike Reeves
Examining Board

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,
Congratulations to Local 234's newest journey wiremen Ruth Dean, Scott Harris, Raul Marin, Jose Melgarejo, Nicholas Prelovick and Michael Stevenson. This group is another shining example that hard work, sacrifice and dedication will always be rewarded and is truly a great accomplishment! The IBEW will benefit greatly as these new journeymen take on leadership roles in the construction industry.

As of July 1, 2009, we are changing over to Benesys for the administration of our Health and Welfare Plan. You will be getting more information in the mail. Please take some time to read through the material and check for any errors in your information so that it can be corrected. Benesys will be handling our account from their San Jose office and is proudly represented by Teamsters Local 315 in California. They have a reputation for excellence in customer service. I look forward to entering into this partnership and raising the level of information and service to our membership and retirees.

As you well know, the State Budget is still being ironed out. For us, the largest effect of this is the lack of construction projects during the summer. June saw 20 projects bid with 12 going to union contractors and 8 to non-union. The total project costs for the 12 projects was \$16,760,900. The other 8 totaled \$4,325,000. The typical calculation for the electrical subs is 10% to 15%. This is an improvement from previous months but we are still on shaky ground. These are difficult times at best and the staff is working nonstop to promote the IBEW. Paul, Andy, and I are out lobbying local school boards, city and county councils, and various groups that are making policy that will affect all of us. We cannot do this work alone. We need more involvement from our members. For every meeting we attend there are three or more we cannot because of conflicting times. So please ask

yourself if you can assist in some small way to help promote the IBEW and our local contractors. Paul will be heading up the Membership Development Volunteer Organizing Committee meetings, which are the second Wednesday of the month at 5pm. These meetings are right before the start of the Union Meeting. Please come by and check it out. You may already be involved with a school or other organization and may just need some helpful hints on how to enhance those existing relationships.

The Code of Excellence classes have been well attended with 19 members completing the course last month. Thank you to all who have made the effort and see the value in promoting the highest standards in the electrical industry to our present and future customers. The next class will be held July 16th (Thursday) starting at 5pm. Call the office to sign up. I look forward to seeing you there.

I would like to welcome a newly signed contractor Robert Curiel, proud owner of Enterprise Electrical Services of Hollister. Mr. Curiel is a wonderful addition to our contractor base and gives us a much-needed presence in San Benito County. We wish him success in his new business venture and look forward to working with him.

You may have received an IBEW membership card recently in the mail. This card is the new way the IBEW will identify you throughout the Locals. It is still being expanded, but should eventually have the information you need to verify things like OSHA training, foreman status, CPR, Code of Excellence, and paid through dues date. All the locals will have a special card reader set up to help extract the information quickly. It is a work in progress but will be an efficient way to save much needed information all in one easy card.

Don't forget the IBEW 234 picnic is coming up soon, August 22nd. There will be a new event this year as the JATC will be holding tryouts to establish the best apprentice representative to the Apprenticeship skills Rodeo later this year. Call now to RSVP to make sure we can accommodate everyone wishing to come.

I hope you enjoy the summer months ahead and I wish you and your family well.

Scholarship Essay Results

IBEW Local 234 has awarded a total of \$1,500 in scholarships to four area college-bound high school seniors who were selected based on an essay contest about labor and union issues.

Receiving \$500 scholarships are:

Veronica Arizmendez, of Salinas, North Monterey County High School, who will be attending Monterey Peninsula College, and Samantha Steele, of Scotts Valley, Scotts Valley High School, who will be attending Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo.

Receiving \$250 as runners-up are:

Tempestt Edward, of Salinas, Everett Alvarez High School, attending UCLA, and Jessica Gamber of Felton, San Lorenzo Valley High, attending Cabrillo College.

Each of the four students was selected on the basis of an essay written about labor issues. Applicants also had to have one family member who is or was a union member, of any affiliation, in his or her immediate family.

"For the second year in a row, we are very pleased to award these scholarships to highly talented local students," said Andy Hartmann, President of IBEW Local 234. "In their essays, each award winner demonstrated strong knowledge of how vital the union movement has been in making this country a better place for all to live."



Safety Notice/Recall on Fluke Meters

Fluke is voluntarily recalling certain 333, 334, 335, 336 and 337 Digital Clamp Meters that were manufactured between January 29, 2008 and February 27, 2009. The models and serial numbers affected are listed on their website www.fluke.com/33Xrecall. If you own one of these clamp meters, please stop using it and send it back to Fluke for replacement.

Congratulations to Our Recent Graduates!

This year's Apprentice graduation was held on June 6th at the Monterey Beach Hotel.

Inside (5 year program) graduates: Ruth Dean, Scott Harris, Raul Marin, Jose Melgarejo, Nicholas Preglovsk and Michael Stevenson!

Residential (3 year program) graduates: Miguel Huerta, Michael Magana, Israel Rosas and Richard Acevedo!

Congratulations on completing your apprenticeship!

Pictured to the left are Ruth Dean, Nicholas Preglovsk, Michael Stevenson, and Scott Harris at the graduation and dinner ceremony.



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.

Code of Excellence Classes will be held the third Wednesday of each month. Reserve your place!

When: Thursday, July 16th

5pm-7pm

Where: Local 234 Training Center



Important Information About H&W!

The IBEW Local 234 Health & Welfare Plan is changing plan administrators. The new Third Party Administrator (TPA) is BeneSys Administrators (www.benesysinc.com). Benesys currently services IBEW 180, 684, and 1245 Tree Trimmers; UA 62 and 393; Sheet Metal 104 and 162; and many more Locals. This change takes effect July 1st, 2009. You should have already started to receive mailings from Benesys, including new Medical Cards. Our providers and benefits remain the same. We still use PHA for our medical coverage, Delta Dental for dental coverage, and Sav-Rx for prescriptions.

Many of you have been contacted by our previous administrator, UAS. We apologize for any confusion this has caused. Please understand that we are trying to make this transition as smooth as possible. Contact the hall if you have questions or concerns.

We are very excited about the change and look forward to improved service for our members and their dependents. BeneSys is fully automated and their turnaround time for claims processing is four days on average from the time it is received. Benesys is developing a secure website for members and participants where we can check the status of pending claims, check eligibility and print out claim forms as needed. The website will be a very useful resource for members and their dependents covered by the plan. This website is expected to be up and running by the end of the year.

BeneSys will also be providing a Monthly Status report to members with a summary of hours reported by employer, current hour bank balance, type of coverage provided, the names of dependents covered and other information related to our Health coverage, including important information about any Plan changes. Overall we expect to see some significant changes and anticipate that we will all be very happy with the changes.

Please direct all inquiries, claims, correspondence, etc., to BeneSys Administrators at the address and telephone number indicated below.

IBEW Local 234 Health & Welfare Fund
P.O. Box 670
San Jose, CA 95109
Phone: (408) 588-3753
Toll Free: (877) 885-3753
Fax: (408) 436-8210
Email: staff@ibew234benefits.org
Website: www.ibew234benefits.org

The new mailing address for self payments effective immediately is:

IBEW Local 234 Health & Welfare Plan
Department 6494
P.O. Box 537026
Sacramento, CA 95853-7026
For Direct Deposits please use Routing No. 121143260

Welcome Newly Signatory Contractor

Robert Curiel, an IBEW member, recently became a contractor and established a new company, **Enterprise Electrical Services**. Robert previously worked for Bob Yant of Enterprise Electric Company in Hollister. Unfortunately, Bob Yant is no longer in the electrical business. Robert is based in Hollister. We welcome him aboard as a newly signatory contractor.

Enterprise Electrical Services
800-D San Benito St..
Hollister, CA 95023
Phone: (831) 637-3795
FAX: (831) 637-0167
CSLB # 926870



July 2009

Please be assured that while the Benefits Administrator has changed, your benefits have not changed.

Carrying on the Enterprise tradition of experience, quality, and a new dedication to customer satisfaction!

-Robert Curiel

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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

Apprenticeship News Flash: No More Free Books!?!?!?

Every school year our program spends nearly \$30,000.00 on books and workbooks for the apprenticeship classes. The Training Trust (JATC) is strongly considering charging the apprentices for their books this coming year.

A survey taken of 16 other Inside programs showed that 11 of these charge full book price to the apprentices; 2 of these have a percentage charge based on what year the apprentice is in; 2 of these pay the book charges only for the 1st year apprentices and 1 program has an arrangement where the LMCC picks up 20% of the book cost, the rest of the cost being charged to the apprentices that are in that program.

One option that the Trustees are considering is that of requiring a mandatory "recycling" of textbooks from one year to the next. In that way, the apprentices would only have to pay for the workbooks used in that year of schooling. If an apprentice had found particular value in a textbook (say, Soares Book on Grounding) the apprentice could purchase that book for his/her personal reference library. Books would otherwise have to be returned in good condition to avoid a charge.

In last month's newsletter article, I suggested that some money could be saved if apprentices were willing to return textbooks now to the JATC office (see list of books requested to be returned). My thanks to those 5 apprentices who have responded. You guys have saved us \$468.00. If you other 52 apprentices would either get or commit to getting your books back to me, the program can save another estimated \$5,532. That's money we won't have to spend to buy the books!

But the clock is ticking... I have to place my book order by July 15. I have to know by then how many books to order. So I have to know by July 14th if I can count on you to recycle your old books! Please call to let me know, or come by and drop off your books! Thanks... Ed, TD

The following table is an estimate of the approximate book costs to an apprentice, not including the need to purchase the next edition of the National Electrical Code when printed:

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

UPCOMING JOURNEYMAN UPGRADE CLASSES:

Solar Photovoltaics: Instructed by Mark Rosas, this class will meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 8:30 starting July 7. Course cost will be \$118.40, which includes the textbook, workbook and course fee. Opportunity to sign up for this class is closing soon, so call now to save your seat!

OSHA 30: If you took OSHA 10 taught here within the last 6 months by Joe Murillo, you can take this OSHA 30 class on Saturday Aug. 8 and 15, starting at 8 a.m. each day. \$35.00 course fee, no book charge.

CPR/First Aid Recertification: Not yet scheduled, but two more needed on sign up sheet to schedule this class. \$35.00 course fee.

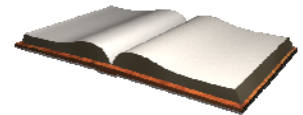
(P.S. The JATC has decided to charge apprentices as well as JW's to take these classes... sorry!)

APPRENTICE RODEO: NOT MUCH COMPETITION! What, are you CHICKEN?

Only two apprentices have indicated that they would like to compete in the Apprentice Rodeo to be held at the IBEW picnic in August. The winners of this local competition will travel to compete at the Western Regional in Oregon. On September 19 our chosen apprentice will compete against other JATC "best apprentices" in such events as motor control, conduit bending, residential wiring and material identification. The LMCC is covering the travel expenses for two apprentices and the Training Director to go to Oregon. COME ON APPRENTICES! ARE YOU NOT PROUD OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE, SKILL and ABILITIES? SHOW US WHAT YOU GOT! Call Ed to let him know you are up to the challenge! 633-3063!

Applications are now being accepted at the JATC office for a "permanent" part-time (26 to 28 hours per week) **Administrative Assistant**. Duties will include accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll processing, program applicant and student database management, interaction with accountants on quarterly tax reports and annual audits, preparing meeting agendas and minutes, answering phones, interacting with applicants at counter, and preparing, mailing and logging correspondence items. Applicant must have Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook skills, know how to mail merge with these programs and be proficient with Quickbooks. A background check will be required. Contact Ed at 633-3063.

DESPERATELY NEEDED: YOUR TEXTBOOKS FROM THE LAST SCHOOL YEAR (2008-2009)



1st year: Building a Foundation in Mathematics (\$49)

2nd year: DC Theory (\$48); AC Theory (\$46); Applied Codeology (\$33)

3rd year: Semiconductor (\$48); Soares Book on Grounding (\$36)

4th year: Building Automation (\$50); Hazardous Locations (\$36); Lighting Design Basics (\$41); Motor Control (\$38); Motors (\$54); Programmable Logic Controllers (\$54)

5th year: Fire Alarm Systems (\$40); Fund. of Instr. (\$34); Health Care Systems (\$27); Pwr Quality Analysis (\$25); Sig. Changes to '08 NEC (\$33); Code Calcs (\$27); Elect. Sys. 2008 NEC (\$43)

IBEW Local 234
Newsletter

Local 234 "Rock Solid"

IBEW Local 234 was recognized by the Monterey Bay Central Labor Council with the "Rock Solid Outstanding Union Solidarity Award", because of its years of work on behalf of good jobs and responsible development in Santa Cruz through the Build a Better La Bahia Coalition." In addition, Congressman Sam Farr issued a "Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition" to Local 234 because of the Rock Solid Award, "in recognition of outstanding and invaluable service to the community."

MDVOC Meeting Wed. July 8th!



We will have our first Membership Development Volunteer Organizing Committee (MDVOC) meeting on **July 8th at 5pm** at the Union Hall. Please join us as we work together to improve our market share and increase our visibility. We are in the process of developing 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. We are also in the process of setting up a Twitter account www.twitter.com/ibew234. If you have input or suggestions on how we can make improvements, this would be the time. We ask that you get involved to make a difference in your Local. Join us on **July 8th at 5pm** and see how your involvement can make a difference.

All members are welcome to attend.

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. 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.



Firecracker 10K

Early Saturday July 4th morning will be the 24th running of the Santa Cruz Firecracker 10K. For the past 5 years the Santa Cruz Sunrise Rotary has organized this favorite event attracting both local runners and visitors from all over the bay area. The race features a kids' 1K, the challenging centerpiece "Thrill of the Hill" 10K, and new this year is a flat and fast 5K. It's a great way to kick off your 4th of July weekend festivities. Visit the event's website (www.SantaCruzFirecracker10k.org) for registration information and everything else you'll need to know about this great event. IBEW 234 is helping to sponsor this event.



Happy July Birthday to the Following Members:



Ivan Barcinas
Ken Cardoza
Ronald Carpenter
Nicholas Castillo
Mateo Ceralde
Bradley Conger
L. Earl Davis
Seth Dietz
Philip DiGirolamo
Matthew Evans
Stevan Gamez
Fred Geiger
Scott Harris

Randy Hill
Richard Hoerger
Dennis Ihnot
James Keen
Stan Klasa
Matthew Kulich
Enrique Lara
Greg Maggini
Vincent Matyas
Robert McClung
Jose Melgarejo
Joe Ortiz
Adalberto Padilla

Jose Recio Jr.
Trey Replogle
Michael Rippey
Gabriel Rodriguez
John Rodriguez
Charles Sanchez
Michael Stevenson
Josh Stockton
Raymond Sykes II
Ezequiel Torres
Robert Valenzuela
Carlos Vargas

This Month's Local 234 Winners!

July 2009

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

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

Chris Burditt won \$21.00 and donated it back.

Apprentice Give-Away:

Chris Burditt won \$23.40.

Give-Away Winners:

Bob Dollins won a Klein Insulated Flathead Screwdriver

Mike Ihnot won an IBEW Alaska bag

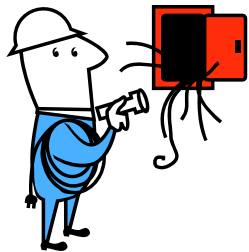
Chris Burditt won a Klein Jab Saw



"You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand."

- Woodrow T. Wilson

The next general membership meeting will be



**Wednesday, July 8th, 2009 @
6:30 pm.**

July 2009

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

New Employee Free Choice Act Video



Watch a short video as veterans testify at the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor "Veterans and Jobs" Town Hall Meeting with Labor Secretary Hilda Solis. It will break your heart - and make your blood boil - to watch these brave men and women tell their stories about not being able to find jobs that pay them what they made defending America.

Visit YouTube and search for [America's Veterans Speak Out for Good Jobs](#) or type www.youtube.com/watch?v=76T9fUoHxTU to see the video. Senator Feinstein needs to make a choice and we hope that by spreading this video around she will choose us by turning our economy around.

Electrical Certification News

- New testing administrator, PSI, will be scheduling California Electrician Certification Exams for General electrician, Residential electrician, Fire/life/safety technician, Voice data video technician, and Non-residential lighting technician, starting June 15, 2009. If you are calling to schedule to take your test on or after July 1, 2009, please call PSI at (800) 733-9267.
- For Renewal: PROOF OF 32 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION IS REQUIRED.
- More information about the California Electrical Certification program is available at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DAS/ElectricalTrade.htm>



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

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(831) 633-3063 Education &
Training
(831) 755-2313 Jobline

thehall@ibew234.org

www.ibew234.org
www.tricountyjatc.org



«field1» «field2» «field3»

«field4»

«field5»

Please join us
with your family
for the annual
IBEW 234 PICNIC
on Saturday,
August 22nd

Where: **Toro Park, Buckeye Picnic Area**

in Salinas Off Hwy 68

Time: **11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Barbecue at 12 noon



Please **RSVP** by
Friday, August 14th
with the IBEW Office to
receive your
free parking pass
(831) 633-2311 or
(800) 499-4239

Games and activities provided:

- Apprentice Rodeo
- Incredibles Obstacle Challenge
- Drawing for Prizes
- Face Painting
- Balloon Sculptures
- Magic Show

*Come and help us celebrate our members who have completed **up to 65 Years of Service!***

65 Years

Karl Ozols

55 Years

Alphons DeVos

Donald Hughes

Lloyd Marchant

Harold Reynolds

Vernon Walker

50 Years

Johnny Baker

Kenneth Boner

Glen Johnson

Clark McCarty Jr.

Robert Nicholas

Charles Perkins

Bob Wilson

45 Years

Ronald Carpenter

James Keen

40 Years

David Fisher

Fred Geiger

Frank Davi

35 Years

Sergio De Toma

Gary Schumacher

Jerry Whitehead

Stephen Gilbert

John Balducci

Michael Fryou

30 Years

Francisco Aldape Jr.

Walter Regnier

Philip Zobel

Louis Bonds

Mark Rosas

25 Years

Scott Randolph

Edward Sudyka

Bryan Daniel

Stephen Pybas

Laurie Clark

20 Years

George Mellone

Dan Baroni

Andrew Coker

Jason Finley

Gerard Rogers

Peter Willis

15 Years

Susan Carter

John Aguilar

Leo Lotz

Hector Haro

Pete Marsiguerra

Vincent Matyas

Ronald Dyck

John Dacey

10 Years

Ralph Garcia

Mateo Ceralde

George Brandt

Daniel Naranjo

Aaron Pace

John Rodriguez

Richard Tanaka

Henry Cortez II

John Agra

Michael Higueta

Manuel Madrigal

James McGee II

Greg Miller

Brian Sabado

Brad Lee Smith

Richard Roach

Albert Randall

Charles Schlesinger

Stephen Slovacek

Robert Alustiza

Mario Vera

Paul Gutierrez

Joe Ortiz

Byron Borchard

Rebecca Trescott

Manuel Valdez

5 Years

Joshua Bailey

Richard Regier

Felipe Jimenez

Rodolfo Martinez

David White

Ismael Estrada

Frank Rivera

Michael Rodda

Tom Thomas

Ken Cardoza