



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

# IBEW Local 234

# Newsletter

## Local 234 Officers:

Ken Scherpinski  
**Business Manager**

Andy Hartmann  
**President**

Charlie Ruiz  
**Vice President**

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**Treasurer**

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**Recording Secretary/  
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Andy Gattis  
Rick Keaton  
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Robert Campbell  
Phil DiGirolamo  
Mike Reeves  
**Examining Board**

Monterey, San Benito, & Santa Cruz Counties

May 2009

## Business Manager's Report by Ken Scherpinski

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

May will bring us some challenges that many of us in the Local have not seen before. Anytime you take a big machine like the U.S. of A and bring it to a grinding halt it will take some time get it rolling again. The work picture is tough for all construction workers in the tri-county area. We currently have 31 registered on Book 1 and 52 on Book 2. Some calls have been coming in for UCSC projects with only a few calls for other ongoing jobs.

I attended the State Association conference last month. The main topics of discussion were Solar work in the state and the Employee Free Choice Act.

The IBEW has taken a position to support the Employee Free Choice Act, supporting all workers who want to join a union and do so without the fear of retaliation or intimidation. In 1935 the Wagner Act was passed as part of the U.S. policy to make it legal to organize and form unions. This was brought forth during the end of the Great Depression, not the beginning because the President, FDR, at that time believed if you rebuild the economy from the ground up, the middle class will stimulate recovery. It seemed to work pretty well for a while until big business got greedy and quit investing in America. The Employee Free Choice Act is just that, the Employee's Choice. Please let your representatives in government, especially Senator Feinstein, know how you feel about this.

I would like to thank the members who came out to support the La Bahia rally during a recent Santa Cruz City Council meeting: Brothers Marceron, Perez, Eddy, Nickals, and Replogle and son. I look forward to seeing more activity from the membership in future campaigns in all our counties. La Bahia seems to be moving forward despite concerns from the community, hotel and Building Trades unions. The Coastal Commission gets the next review of the Barry Swenson project.

Earlier in the month Local 234 hosted an electrical estimating class. The class was very popular with the membership; 23 were in attendance. Thank you to all of you that showed interest.

We just completed a Solar Contractor class for electrical contractors and had 32 attendees. The class was an intense 6 hour session on everything from what to do to get into Solar (PV), sales, design, permitting, installation and many more topics. Thanks to Andy Hartmann and Paul Gutierrez for setting up the class and helping to open doors for future work in Local 234.

Congratulations to all our apprentices for completing their respective school years. The road to becoming an IBEW Journey Wireman is a long and difficult path but through your hard work and perseverance you are becoming the finest craftsman in our industry.

Lastly, we will be honoring all those who gave for this country the ultimate sacrifice so we can live free in this great country. Please take a moment to pay your respects and pray for peace.

Send your  
Certification  
**RENEWAL**  
Application  
at least **1**  
**month** prior  
to the  
expiration  
date and  
not more  
than **3**  
**months** in  
advance.

## New Additions—Congratulations!

**Ashley Lynn Alvarez** born 3/25 to Brandon and Cheree Alvarez

**Pablo Marin** born 4/7 to Raul and Marisol Marin

**Wyatt Nunes** born 4/14 to William and Melissa Nunes

## Do you need to renew your Certification?

Most everyone will need to renew their Electrical Certification this year. Your renewal date should be the month you took the exam. The Division of Apprenticeship Standards recommends you send your RENEWAL Application for Certification before it expires, preferably at least **1 month** prior to the expiration date. Any applications submitted more than 3 months in advance will be returned.

IMPORTANT: You are REQUIRED to have:

- 1) Renewal fee of \$100.00;
- 2) 32 hours of continuing education and;
- 3) 2,000 hours in the industry in the previous 3 years. If your certification expired before you can renew, you must pay an additional fee of \$100.00 and have to retake the certification exam (i.e., Renewal fee = \$100, but if your certification is also expired, you need to retake exam at an additional cost of \$100. Total fee = \$200.00).

More information and the **NEWLY REVISED** renewal form is on the Department of Industrial Relations website at

[www.dir.ca.gov/das/electricaltrade.htm](http://www.dir.ca.gov/das/electricaltrade.htm).

THE HALL NEEDS YOUR NEW EFFECTIVE DATES FOR CERTIFICATION. PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH COPIES. CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

## Castroville Artichoke Festival

Celebrating 50 Years (1959-2009)

Saturday, May 16 - 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

**Average White Band (AWB), Today, Yesterday, Tomorrow (TYT), The Johnny Clay Band**

Sunday, May 17 - 10:00 A.M - 5:00 P.M.

**Los Lobos, Second Wind**

TICKETS ON SALE at the Door \$8 Adults/\$4 Children 12 and under

## 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: Wednesday, May 20th**

**5pm-7pm**

**Where: Local 234 Training Center**



# The Employee Free Choice Act

May 2009

The **Employee Free Choice Act**, supported by a bipartisan coalition in Congress, is an act that would enable working people to collectively bargain for better benefits, wages, and working conditions by restoring workers' freedom to choose for themselves whether to join a union. It would:

- Remove current obstacles to employees who want collective bargaining.
- Guarantee that workers who can choose collective bargaining are able to achieve a contract.
- Allow employees to form unions by signing cards authorizing union representation.

**Write and Call Senator Feinstein today.** Ask her to support the Employee Free Choice Act.

*One Post Street Suite 2450*

*San Francisco, CA 94101*

Call Toll Free (866) 207-2060 or (415) 393-0707

Online at: [www.workingcalifornia.org](http://www.workingcalifornia.org)  
[www.unionvoice.org/campaign/passefca\\_II](http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/passefca_II)

Or stop by the hall, we have letters ready to sign. We will even mail it for you!

So far we have mailed 61 letters to Dianne Feinstein.



*"Power goes to two poles - to those who've got the money and those who've got the people."*  
 -- Saul Alinsky

## 10% Discount at Beck's

Jim Beck from **Beck's Red Wing Shoes & Repair** in Salinas and Monterey has made a generous offer to IBEW Local 234 members, a 10% discount. Just mention that you are an IBEW Local 234 member to receive 10% off. Beck's has two locations:

354 Main Street Salinas, CA 93901 (831) 424-7569

734 Lighthouse Avenue Monterey, CA 93940 (831) 373-7377

Online at [www.becksshoes.com](http://www.becksshoes.com)



## Sound & Communication's Prep Test

Preparation tests are now available for the California State Certification of Voice Data Video Technician and Fire/Life Safety Technician. Visit [nocal-jatc.com](http://nocal-jatc.com).

## Inside Wage Allocation Results

At the Regular Membership Meeting of April 8th the membership voted on the Inside June 1st wage allocation of \$2.05. The results were:

- **\$0.45 to Health & Welfare**
- **\$0.25 to Pension**
- **\$1.24 to the wage**
- **\$0.11 to JATC contingent on NECA matching the contribution**

(if no matching contribution is made, then the money will be added to the wage)

Effective 6/1/2009	Wage	H&W	Pension
<b>Inside Journeyman</b>	\$39.59	\$9.70	\$9.31



# 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

**UPCOMING CLASSES THIS SUMMER: NFPA 70E, Electrical Safety Related Work Practice, Saturday, June 13.**

Also coming, but not yet scheduled: OSHA 10 and OSHA 30; CPR/ FIRST AID; SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS and Significant Changes to the 2005 & 2008 NEC

## **Changes to the Certification Renewal Requirements**

The month of April brought two very significant changes to the renewal requirements for your State Electrical Certification. One of these changes could make your certification renewal easier, the other could make it harder. To see what I'm talking about here, go to <http://www.dir.ca.gov./das/ElectricalTrade.htm> and follow the links to the FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) for electrical certification and then backtrack and take a look at the newly revised certification renewal form.

**It's Easier: Change #1:** According to one of the websites FAQ, the DAS is now stating that "Continuing education can be provided by **any entity** as long as a Certificate of Completion is provided to all electricians who attend their class". Any entity! The floodgates are opened, as long as your educational provider issues a certificate of completion. If you take a class at a Community College, the grade report or transcript should suffice to satisfy this requirement. If you took a class from your Castroville JATC, I hope that by now we have provided you with a certificate of completion. Call us if this is not the case, but don't try and count classes that you took before 2006, when the Certification law went into effect.

**It's Harder: Change #2:** According to the newly revised Certification Renewal Form, in addition to all the requirements you're used to seeing on this form, it is now a requirement that you must **attach a copy of your certificate(s) of completion** to provide proof that you have taken 32 hours or more of continuing education.

Remember, you should apply for your renewal no more than 3 months and no less than one month before your certification expires. Don't wait until the week before your expiration date! If you do, your certification will expire before your renewal application gets processed at the DAS.

**For APPRENTICES ONLY: as the school year winds down!**

Apprentices, remember that getting your raise and period advancement is your responsibility! Here are some things you should do **RIGHT NOW** to make that happen on time if you are going for a raise this summer...

1. Before your last night of class, have your instructor sign the back of your Blue Book where he needs to.
2. If you are using the Absence Allowance Form, make sure you have your Instructor's signature and your grade info on it as well.
3. Before you leave school, make sure you pick up the Request for Raise Form and Apprentice Evaluation Form that you will need to have filled out and with you when you come in for a raise.
4. Mark it on your home calendar the date you need to turn all this paperwork in to the JATC. It must be here sometime during the week before the JATC meeting, which is on the third Tuesday of the month. If it shows up the week of the meeting, it may be rejected!



We conducted an Apprentice Aptitude Test on April 18th for 53 applicants to our program. Thank you to Bryan Borchard, Dave Butters, Omar Padilla and Ray Sykes II for proctoring this test! Couldn't have done it without you guys!

A **Big Shout Out of Thanks** to these folks who presented info about our apprenticeship program in April:

**Juan Dominguez** at the EDD Monterey Job Fair

**George Mellone** and **Juan Dominguez** at Hartnell Job Fair

**Dan Walford** at Scotts Valley H.S.

**Kyle Hirayama** at Santa Cruz H.S.

We can always use others who would like to help present our info. Call us!



**And More Thanks!**

To **Mike Wolfe**, who built this "Ready to Make-up" electrical panel lab in our workroom at the Training Center. This is one of two such panel make up trainers we will have that can be used to let apprentices and JW's learn hands-on how to land conductors properly in circuit panel boards.

If you would like to help develop more hands on trainers like this, please contact us!

**HELP WANTED: APPRENTICESHIP and JOURNEYMAN TEACHERS!**

The JATC would like to begin accepting applications from those interested in applying for teaching positions for the apprenticeship and Journeyman training courses. There will be job openings for qualified candidates as teachers retire, or JW courses are scheduled. Please contact the Training Director who will give you more information.

## Getting Political

Are you interested in serving on a Political Action Committee (PAC)? Local 234 is in the process of forming a PAC. If you would like to be involved, then this is your chance.

*We don't live to do politics, we do politics to live.*

The PAC will be funded \$2 per member per month from the Organizing Fund. A letter will shortly go out to all members giving them the opportunity to opt out of this contribution. The objective of our PAC Fund is to fully inform members of the advantages and disadvantages of state ballot measures, legislative proposals, and the positions taken by candidates for elected office. To the fullest extent permitted by law, PAC funds will be utilized for contributions in support or opposition to state and local offices and ballot measures.

Local 234 PAC meetings will be held the 4th Wednesday of the month from 5-6pm, on an as needed basis. Meeting notice will be posted in the newsletter. Contact Andy Hartmann at (831) 594-7471 if you are interested in serving on Local 234's PAC. Get involved and help make Local 234 better.

## Go Electronic, Go Green!

Sign up today to receive this newsletter via email. Go Green! Help us reduce our production costs. There is a link under Downloads, Newsletter to the subscribe form.

Or type <http://www.ibew234.org/resources/subscribe.lasso> into your web browser.

Our webpage is located at [www.ibew234.org](http://www.ibew234.org).

Call the office if you would like help signing up.



## Manage your 9th District Pension Plan

Get the help of a Financial Representative

**Wednesday, May 20th Starting at 3pm.**

A Financial Representative will be at the hall to assist with you 9th District Pension plan account. Contact either representative if you would like to set up an appointment; however, no appointment is necessary.

**Mark Foster, LUTCF**  
Senior Financial Representative  
(415) 951-0915  
[foster.mark@principal.com](mailto:foster.mark@principal.com)

**James Boisse**  
Financial Representative  
(415) 951-0915 x208  
(510) 409-2886 cell  
[boisse.james@principal.com](mailto:boisse.james@principal.com)



Call Toll-Free  
(800) 654-1485



## Happy May Birthday to the Following Members:

Francisco Aldape Jr  
Trinidad Avila  
Clint Byrum  
Paul Chapin  
Laurie Clark  
Adam Cullers  
Terry Currence  
Craig Eddy  
Alexander Elliott  
David Espinoza

Michael Freeman  
Kasey Jeska  
Alvin Keller  
John Ketchum  
Leo Lotz  
James McGee II  
Jose Munoz  
David Novarina  
John O'leary  
Omar Padilla

Jose Parra  
Kevin Pitts  
Walter Regnier  
Gary Riggs  
Richard Roach  
Ray Rodriguez  
Richard Tanaka  
Robert Tagonan  
Bernie Wall  
Richard Zeman

# This Month's Local 234 Winners!

May 2009

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

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

Stefan Marceron won \$26 and donated it back.

## Apprentice Give-Away:

Ray Sykes won \$23.40.



## Give-Away Winners:

Scott Harris won a pair of Klein Diagonals.

Stefan Marceron won and declined.

Bob Dollins won and declined.

Hector Camacho won a Sears \$25 gift card.

"With all their faults, trade unions have done more for humanity than any other organization of men (*and women*) that ever existed. They have done more for decency, for honesty, for education, for the betterment of the race, for the developing of character in men (*and women*) than any other association."

- Clarence Darrow

The next general membership meeting will be **Wednesday, May 13th, 2009 @ 6:30 pm.**

# May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 May Day	2
3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo LMCC @ 4pm	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13 Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	14	15	16 Artichoke Festival
17 Artichoke Festival	18	19 Special Election JATC @ 5pm	20 Code of Excellence @ 5pm	21	22 Inside Designated Off Day	23
24 End of Pay Period	25 Memorial Day	26	27 Executive Board @ 6pm	28	29	30
31						

# Statewide Vigils For Employee Free Choice Act

Large corporations like Wal-Mart are spending hundreds of millions of dollars to stop workers from having the freedom to join and form unions. Under our current broken system, workers are harassed and intimidated -- even fired -- just for trying to exercise their freedom to bargain collectively with their employers for better wages and benefits.

With our economy in crisis, we can't afford to wait any longer to reform the broken system. The Employee Free Choice Act would finally restore workers' rights and help working families get on the road to economic recovery. On May 6th and 7th, workers across the state will be participating in vigils to support the Employee Free Choice Act and speak out against corporate excess. Show your support for Employee Free Choice by attending an event in your area.

Now is the Time!  
Vigils to Support the Employee Free Choice Act

**San Francisco: 26-hour vigil**  
**May 6th, Noon to May 7th, 2 pm**  
San Francisco Federal Building, 7th and Mission Streets  
For information: [amber@sflaborcouncil.org](mailto:amber@sflaborcouncil.org)

**Fresno: 12 hour vigil**  
**May 6th, 7 am to 7 pm**  
Fresno Federal Building, 2500 Tulare Street  
For information: [sbustamante@calaborfed.org](mailto:sbustamante@calaborfed.org)

**Los Angeles: 24-hour vigil**  
**May 6th, Noon to May 7th, Noon**  
Federal Building, 300 N. Los Angeles  
For information: [ywheeler@aficio.org](mailto:ywheeler@aficio.org)

**San Diego: 24-hour vigil**  
**May 6th, Noon to May 7th, Noon**  
Murphy Canyon Wal-Mart  
3382 Murphy Canyon Road, San Diego  
For information: [mvictoria@calaborfed.org](mailto:mvictoria@calaborfed.org)

**Sacramento: 18-hour vigil**  
**May 6th, Noon to May 7th, 6 am**  
Sacramento Federal Building, 501 "I" Street  
For information: [zak@sacramentolabor.org](mailto:zak@sacramentolabor.org)



## International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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«field1» «field2» «field3»

«field4»

«field5»