



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**

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**

Monterey, San Benito, & Santa Cruz County

November 2009

## Business Manager's Report by Ken Scherpinski

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

The fall season, colder weather, and the holiday season are upon us.

Our work picture continues to mirror the surrounding locals. San Jose has 366 on book 1. We currently have 36 on book 1 and 75 book 2. The two job sites that present the best opportunity for work are the Redwood City Electric

UCSC project and the Baker Electric project at the Naval Post Graduate School. I strongly recommend bidding on these calls as they become available on the job line. We are also tracking some new projects in San Benito County. One of these, the new courthouse, should start early next year. The Construction Manager, Kitchem CEM, out of San Jose has been chosen to run the project. We are working with the Santa Clara Building Trades to make this an all-union job.

The next general body meeting will be Monday, November 9th @ 6:30pm because of the Veteran's Day Holiday, which falls on Wednesday of the same week. The membership voted to change the date at the last general body meeting. The change of date has been approved by the International Office and notice was sent to members. If the regular meeting date has been a conflict for you in the past, this would be a great opportunity to attend your local union meeting and participate in the business of the local. I look forward to seeing you there this month.

Last month's Code of Excellence was presented to the 5th year apprentice class plus a few Journey members. I was pleased with how the concepts and ideals of the COE

were embraced and articulated throughout this class of future journeyman. The thoughts and discussions of the industry and how to promote ourselves to present and future customers reinforces that we are on the right track. If you have not taken the COE class yet, the next one will be held on Thursday, November 19th @ 5pm at the Union Hall.

I would like to thank all the members who have called in with their suggestions on how to make us more visible to the public and to the groups with whom they are affiliated. There has also been a great effort made in tracking private job sites in our tri-county area.

It has come to my attention that some banks have a 24-hour hold policy on payroll check deposits. I suggest you look into your bank's policy and consider giving your business to a bank that appreciates hard working men and women and that does not stop you from accessing your money.

The Local's drug policy is being ironed out. It is not a matter of "If" but "When". I am currently working with the Executive Board on policy language. If you have any suggestions or concerns please contact me so I can include them in the decision-making process.

Some things to remember this month: The holidays this month are Veterans Day-Wednesday, November 11th and Thanksgiving—Thursday, November 26th and Friday the 27th. Also, the L.A. Traveling Solar Photovoltaic Roadshow will be here the weekend of the 7th and 8th.

I would like to close with a special thank you to all our Veterans who are rightfully honored this month. Their service and sacrifice for us and for our great country is greatly appreciated. I will forever be in debt to these men and women that have fought to protect our American freedom and privileges.

## Condolences from IBEW Local 234

William Layher—Initiated 3/08/1956, Passed 10/02/2009

Stephen Pybas—Initiated 6/01/1984, Passed 10/08/2009

## Additional Service Pins

At this years picnic and in the newsletter we mistakenly forgot to mention a few members. Below is a list of additional members and the years of service they have earned. Congratulations and please accept our apology

45 Years	Initiated	40 Years	Initiated
Rasmussen, Leslie	1/8/1964	Earl, Robert F	7/1/1969
Kunkle, Michael D	7/1/1964	Stevens, Everett K	7/1/1969
Keator, Robert L	9/1/1964	Landis, Douglas A	9/1/1969

35 Years	Initiated	25 Years	Initiated
Hanson, Fount D	3/1/1974	Quirk, John P	10/1/1984

10 Years	Initiated
Granata, Salvatore	9/8/1999

## Electrician Certification Program Statistics

### Electrician certification program current counts at October 6, 2009

Exams authorized to date	87,670
Exams taken to date	67,416
Exams passed to date	43,563
Exams failed to date	23,853

### The number of California certified electricians in each class is

General	30,023
Residential	2,353
Fire/Life Safety	2,146
Voice Data Video	503
Non-Residential Lighting	269

Source: [http://www.dir.ca.gov/das/ECU\\_Stats.htm](http://www.dir.ca.gov/das/ECU_Stats.htm)

### Electrician Certification Enforcement

As of July 1, 2009 the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) and the California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) are responsible for enforcing Labor Code 3099.2. Any complaints received and verified by DAS regarding the violation(s) of this Labor Code will be forwarded to the CSLB. Violations include, willfully employing uncertified persons to perform work as electricians, willfully failing to provide adequate supervision of uncertified workers, and willfully failing to provide adequate supervision of apprentices.

## Major League Baseball Players Endorse EFCA

Just in time for the World Series, 12 members of the Major League Baseball Players Association this week joined the broad coalition in support of the Employee Free Choice Act.

World Series participants Jimmy Rollins, Shane Victorino and Mark Teixeira were joined by other major leaguers Heath Bell, Dave Bush, LaTroy Hawkins, Torii Hunter, John Lannan, Andrew Miller, J.J. Putz, Justin Verlander and Adam Wainwright as they signed onto the statement this week. The players also appeared in print ads that ran in Washington, D.C., papers on Wednesday.

# IBEW Pension Benefit Fund

## Normal Pension

November 2009

As of January 1, 1992, an active "A" member of the IBEW with at least five years of continuous good standing, who has retired from the electrical industry, and who has reached 65 years of age can apply for IBEW normal pension benefits. Effective January 1, 2007, the monthly pension benefit the retiree would receive would be computed on the basis of \$4.50 per month for each year of "A" membership completed.

For instance, a retired "A" member initiated on June 15, 1997, who turned 65 on March 15, 2008, would be eligible to apply for normal retirement pension benefits as of April 2008. If the member applied for a pension benefit to begin the first of the month following that in which the member turned 65, the pension benefit would be computed from June 1997 through March 2008. At that time the member would have completed 10 full years of IBEW "A" membership. At the \$4.50 rate, the member would receive a monthly benefit of \$45 beginning in April 2008. The same member could tender dues for April and May 2008, retire in June 2008, and receive 11 full years of IBEW pension credit and receive a monthly benefit of \$49.50—an additional \$4.50 more per month than if the member had retired under the plan in April.

A "BA" member transferring to "A" membership, or beginning a new "A" membership after age 60, need only attain five years of continuous and active "A" membership to apply for IBEW pension benefits if the member has also retired from the electrical industry. For example, if an electrical contractor is organized, and there is a new member who is 62 years old, the member need only retain "A" membership for five full years and then may apply for IBEW pension benefits, even if the member might have retired at age 65 or earlier. The member would, however, need to maintain membership until he/she is approved for pension.

## Early Retirement

Early retirement pension benefits (after age 62 but prior to age 65) are computed in a manner similar to that for normal retirement pension benefits, with the exception that the member must hold not less than 20 years of continuous and active "A" membership at the time application is made for pension benefits. Additionally, the pension benefit must be reduced by 6.66 percent for each year or part thereof that the member is less than 65 years of age when the pension benefit begins.

## Optional Spouse 's Benefit

Each eligible "A" member who retires under either the normal, early, or disability retirement pension provisions may elect an optional spouse's benefit. This will result in a reduced pension as long as the pensioner lives, with the provision that, after the retiree's death, one-half of the reduced pension shall continue to be paid to the designated surviving spouse for as long as the spouse lives.

The reduced pension payment under the election is actuarially equivalent to the pension otherwise payable. If the spouse and member are the same age, the member's pension is reduced to 86.5 percent of the amount that would have been computed under the early, normal, or disability retirement provisions of the plan. After the retiree's death, the spouse will receive one-half of this amount for life. If the spouse is older than the member, the amount of the reduced pension is increased by 0.5 percent for each year the spouse is older. If the spouse is younger than the member, the amount of reduced pension is decreased by 0.5 percent for each year the spouse is younger. A member electing this option must do so at the time of retirement on a form provided by the I.S.T. "This election is effective on the date the member is placed on pension, except in the event the member and the member's spouse are subsequently divorced or in the event the member's spouse subsequently predeceases the member, the benefit payable to the member shall be recalculated and shall be equal to the unreduced benefit which would have been provided. This recalculated benefit shall commence the month of January 2002 for those members who became divorced or whose spouses predeceased them prior to or on December 31, 2001; and for all other members, as of the last day of the month next following either the date of the divorce or the death of the spouse."

## Union Dues Increasing

The quarterly audit, performed last month, has indicated the balance in the General Fund is below \$275,000. According to our Bylaws, when this happens, the working dues shall be increased from 2% to 3% of gross earnings. Beginning November 23rd, the dues deduction on your paycheck will increase from 5% to 6%.



# JATC Training News

By Ed Sudyka

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Center

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

Monterey, San Benito, & Santa Cruz County

Where would we be if I had more **VOLUNTEERS**? There are a few of you unsung heroes out there who have helped me out over the years when I've put out a call to action... what I'm about to share is not meant to minimize your efforts, for what you have done here for the JATC is deeply appreciated.

When I travel around and attend meetings at other Training Centers, I see what other JATC's are doing to provide **hands-on training** for their apprentices and their Journeymen. I look at their project work stations and imagine that type of hands-on training in place here in Castroville for our apprentices and Journeyman.

I ask myself "what has that Training Center got that we haven't got?" One of the **key missing ingredients** is **someone to build** the hands-on labs. Other training centers have a person on staff whose job is to do just that. Our program is smaller, and we don't have the funding to "buy" that kind of talent. I'd like to do it myself, but most often I haven't got the kind of time needed to see a project "trim out".

But what if **you "adopt" a lab**



The Training Center workroom "before" picture. You can make a difference in the how it looks after!

**project**, and I provide you with the materials and directions to build a hands-on training lab that could be put to good use training others in important job skills? Think of the difference your efforts would make in the training of our local I.B.E.W. skilled workforce!

Again, for those who have helped in the past... **thank you!** And for those of you who may be finding yourselves with some **free time on your hands** at this moment of your life... your **help** making this IBEW Training Center the best it can be would also be greatly appreciated!

Installation of solar panels at the Union Hall and Training Center. The project is nearing completion. When we go online the system will generate 6.6kW AC.



**Reminder!** Local 11 Traveling Solar Photovoltaic Roadshow is coming to our Training Center Saturday and Sunday, November 7 + 8. This event **starts at 7 a.m.** and lunch will be provided each day. There will be more members attending this event than the annual picnic! We're looking for help in set up and clean up... give us a call to pitch in!

**Foreman's Class Level**  
**3-Saturday, November**  
**14!**

Steven Asay will be here at 8 a.m. to begin his third and last installment this year in Electrical Project Supervision. Space is still available, call before November 6th deadline to sign up. Don't forget to pack your lunch!

**OSHA 30**

**OSHA 30**

Joe Murillo is coming back to town on Saturdays, November 21 and December 5, to teach OSHA 30 to those who have taken OSHA 10 from him earlier this year.

Get your lifetime OSHA 30 card by attending these classes! Call (831) 633-3063 to sign up so we know how many books to have available!

**Significant Changes to the 2008**  
**National Electric Code**

This class would be held 3 hours per night, 1 night per week for 11 weeks. Taking this class alone would fulfill all of your 32 hours of Continuing Education recertification requirements! If you're interested, call (831) 633-3063 to sign up.

**CPR-First Aid**  
**Recertification Class**

still needs a few more members to sign up before it can be put on the calendar. Check your CPR card... you might be expired. . . er. . . your card that is! Call today to get your name on the list so we can schedule this class!

IBEW Local 234  
Newsletter

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

Reserve your place in the next Code of Excellence Class!

**When: Thursday, November 19th, 5pm-7pm**

**Where: Local 234 Training Center**

## Go Electronic, Go Green!

Sign up today to receive this newsletter as an email attachment. Go Green! Help us reduce our production costs and be "green." Our webpage is located at [www.ibew234.org](http://www.ibew234.org). There is a link under Downloads, Newsletter to the subscribe form.

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



## Holiday Food Drive

It's that time of year again. We are again participating in the Second Harvest Holiday Food Drive. Food collected will be distributed to over 180 member agencies and programs in Santa Cruz County. Last year IBEW Local 234 collectively raised 1,619 pounds of food. Help get involved in the biggest food drive of the year. IBEW Local 234 will be collecting donated food or money at our Union Hall. More information is available on the Second Harvest website at [www.thefoodbank.org](http://www.thefoodbank.org).

## Manage your 9th District Pension Plan

Get the help of a Financial Representative

**Tuesday, November 17th, 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 November Birthday to the Following Members:



Donald Baze  
Jack Brumit  
Miguel Bustos  
Manuel Cadena  
Hector Camacho  
John Craft  
Chris Foley  
Kermit Gayman  
Arturo Gonzales  
Kenneth Gorny

Arturo Herrera  
William Hughes  
Patrick Humpal  
Anthony Kalstrom  
Joseph Lockshaw  
Stefan Marceron  
Raul Marin  
Rodolfo Martinez  
Barney Neufeld  
Joaquin Noriega

William Nunes  
Joseph Olaeta  
Karl Ozols  
Richard Phillips  
Jesus Ramirez  
Charles Ruiz  
Brian Sansom  
Michael Smith  
Matt Steinmetz  
Rebecca A Trescott

# This Month's Local 234 Winners!

November 2009

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

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

Mike Ihnot won \$10 and donated it back.

## Apprentice Give-Away:

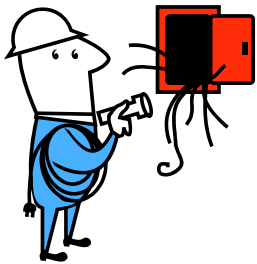
Raymond Sykes II won \$23.40.

## Give-Away Winners:

Mike Ihnot won an orange Klein tool pouch.

Bob Dollins won a Klein insulated No. 2 Phillips.

The next general membership meeting will be



**Monday,  
November 9th, 2009  
@ 6:30 pm**



**IBEW**  
... the *right* choice

*Long ago we stated the reason for labor organizations. We said that they were organized out of the necessities of the situation: that a single employee was helpless in dealing with an employer; ... that union was essential to give the laborers opportunity to deal on equality with their employer. Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes (1862-1948) for the U.S. Supreme Court (1930-1941), in NLRB v. Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. 301 1 at 33, 1937*

# November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends	2	3 LMCC @ 4pm Election Day	4	5	6	7 Hands-On Solar Class
8 Hands-On Solar Class	9 Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	10	11 Holiday Veteran's Day	12	13	14 EPS -3 8am-4:30pm
15	16	17 JATC @ 5pm	18	19 Code of Excellence @ 5pm	20	21 OSHA 30 8am-4:30pm
22 End of Pay Period	23	24	25 Executive Board @ 6pm	26 Holiday Thanksgiving	27 Holiday	28
29	30					



# Union Plus Scholarship Program

The Union Plus Scholarship application is available online at [www.unionplus.org/college-education-financing-union-plus-scholarship](http://www.unionplus.org/college-education-financing-union-plus-scholarship). The application is six pages.

Unlike the IBEW Founders' Scholarship Program, the Union Plus Scholarship Program is also available to the child dependents of IBEW members and other AFL-CIO affiliated unions.

The deadline for the Union Plus Scholarship is January 31, 2010.

## Union Appreciation Day

This season the Raiders would like to thank one of the largest and hardest working work forces in the country by offering a Labor Union Appreciation game.

The Raiders have waived all online Ticketmaster fees, surcharges and taxes, offered special pricing, as well as reserved seating in several price ranges. In addition, the Raiders will be putting our Local Union information up in lights on the Stadium Matrix board during the game.

If you are interested in attending this game, contact Ken Scherpinski (831) 594-0860 no later than **Wednesday, November 18th, 2009**.

**Teaming up with the Raiders**

**Oakland Raiders vs. Washington Redskins**

**Sunday, December 13, 2009—1:05pm Kick Off**



**The next General Membership Meeting date has been changed to Monday, November 9th at 6:30pm**



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
IBEW LOCAL 234  
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(831) 755-2313 Jobline

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[www.ibew234.org](http://www.ibew234.org)  
[www.tricountyjatc.org](http://www.tricountyjatc.org)



«field1» «field2» «field3»

«field4»

«field5»

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

