



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

# IBEW Local 234

## Newsletter

Monterey, San Benito, & Santa Cruz Counties

October 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**

The good news for Local 234 as well as the surrounding locals is that the stock market has been slowly making gains and investors are showing confidence again in the economy. Unfortunately we are feeling the effects of big business restraining themselves which is resulting in the downward spiral that began in June of 2008.

We are currently carrying 38 on Book I and 73 on Book II with brothers and sisters

coming from Washington State, Las Vegas, San Mateo, and Fresno, as well as San Jose to sign our books. We still have work at UCSC with Sprig and Cupertino in addition to Redwood City Electric starting a new project.

A newly signed contractor to Local 234, Baker Electric, is starting a project at The Naval Post Graduate School. Collins will be finishing up the Monterey County Court House project.

I believe times will be tough for a little while longer. My advice would be to weigh carefully the passing up of a job call through the fall and winter months. We also need to be of a mindset that the work we do today is a resume for our customers to pass throughout the business community.

I recently attended our International Membership Development Conference in Las Vegas along with Paul Gutierrez. The IBEW represents approximately 750,000 electrical workers in every branch of the electrical industry. Although the rest of the country has been hit harder than the West Coast, the message is stronger today than it ever was: We need to organize contractors and manpower.

The partnering aspect came to the forefront with a speech from Rich Parenti, Executive Director of Eastern

Region NECA. His message was clear; in order to gain success we must define our enemies and strengthen our forces, contractors and members alike, to become the first choice for electrical work in the eyes of customers everywhere.

Other interesting topics discussed involved community involvement and education for different awarding agencies. One thing I have been advocating was brought out by Brian Baker, I.O. Political Department Spokesman. He stated we need to be a voice at the table in the public sector, i.e. Rotary, Elks, Chamber of Commerce, VFW, and PTA. Mr. Baker stressed that we need to find ways to show we are involved with the community and that we care about what is going on. I urge you to get involved.

I know these are hard times but I will do everything possible within my power to move us toward success. However, I can't do it alone. If one person has 5 ideas imagine what 50 or 100 people can achieve if each came up with 5 good ideas. Negativity and problems are easy to dwell on. There is a real challenge and this is a great opportunity for what we in the IBEW do best; we are problem solvers. We need to look for solutions and use every resource available. Our most valued resource is you, the member. I look forward to hearing your ideas and directions for success.

The two day hands-on photovoltaic class is coming to Local 234 on November 7th and 8th. I strongly encourage Local 234 members to attend this class even if you have taken it before—you may learn something new. This class will be open to other locals but they will be paying \$200 to attend. Our LMCC has generously sponsored this for Local 234 contractors and members to attend. Check out the flyer in this newsletter and register ASAP.

Be safe and enjoy your family each day. Happy Autumn to all.

*What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build it anyway!*

## Condolences from IBEW Local 234

**Harold Reynolds**—Initiated 11/1/1954 recently earned his 55 years of service pin, passed 9/14/2009.

## National Electrical Benefit Fund (NEBF)

### Vesting and Building Your Benefit

You become a Participant in NEBF on your first day of Covered Employment. Your hours in Covered Employment will count toward your eligibility for a benefit from NEBF. You shall no longer be a Participant upon the loss of your Vesting Service Credits.

Once you become Vested, you have a right to a benefit from NEBF and you cannot lose that right. If you stop working in Covered Employment before you are Vested, you remain a Participant until your Vesting Service Credits are lost.

Effective January 1, 1988, you are considered Vested when you have accumulated five Vesting Service Credits. Different rules apply to becoming Vested prior to January 1, 1988.

### Why Is It Important to Be Vested?

There are three reasons why it is important to be Vested.

1. You have a right to a benefit from NEBF and you cannot lose that right.
2. You will not lose any Vesting Service Credits or Pension Credits that you have already earned should you incur a Break in Service.
3. You may earn additional Pension Credits if you return to Covered Employment without having to become Vested again.

### What Happens If I Do Not Become Vested?

If you are not Vested and incur a Break in Service, you lose all Vesting Service Credits and Pension Credits that you have accumulated. However, if you retire at age 65 or older and have not lost your Pension Credits, you may be eligible for a benefit even if you are not Vested.

### Earning Credits Toward a Benefit

Your eligibility for a benefit and the amount of that benefit depend on the number of credits you earn. Generally, credits are earned for hours worked in Covered Employment. There are two types of credits you can earn: Vesting Service Credits and Pension Credits.

Vesting Service Credits determine your right to a benefit. To be Vested means that you have a non-forfeitable right to a benefit from NEBF.

### How Do I Earn Vesting Service Credits?

Generally, you earn Vesting Service Credits by accumulating hours worked in Covered Employment in Good Years. **There is a 1,000 hour requirement for each Vesting Service Credit.**

You generally earn one Vesting Service Credit for each year you work 1,000 hours or more. The hours in excess of 1,000 can be used to meet the 1,000 hour requirement for other Good Years in which you worked less than 1,000 hours. For hours to count toward the 1,000 hour requirement, you must have a Good Year. A Good Year is generally a year in which you work 300 or more hours in Covered Employment. You can earn only one Vesting Service Credit in any calendar year.

In the event you believe you are entitled to Vesting Service Credits for time not reflected in NEBF's records, it will be your responsibility to produce records proving your entitlement to such Vesting Service Credits.

## Pension Credits

Pension Credits are generally earned while working in Covered Employment. They are used to determine your benefit amount. You cannot earn Pension Credits for hours worked in Non-Covered Employment. Pension Credits are not based on union membership.

There are two types of Pension Credits: Benefit Service Credits and Past Service Credits. These are added together to give the total number of Pension Credits that are used to determine your benefit amount.

### Benefit Service Credits

Benefit Service Credits are earned based on the number of hours you work in Covered Employment.

### How Do I Earn Benefit Service Credits?

Generally, you earn Benefit Service Credits by accumulating hours worked in Covered Employment in Good Years. There is a 1,000 hour requirement for each Benefit Service Credit. You generally earn one Benefit Service Credit for each year you work 1,000 hours or more. The hours in excess of 1,000 can be used to meet the 1,000 hour requirement for other Good Years in which you worked less than 1,000 hours.

For hours to count toward the 1,000 hour requirement, you must have a Good Year. A Good Year is generally a year in which you work 300 or more hours in Covered Employment. You can earn only one Benefit Service Credit in any calendar year. In the event you believe you are entitled to Benefit Service Credits for time not reflected in NEBF's records, it will be your responsibility to produce records proving your entitlement to such Benefit Service Credits.

### Past Service Credits

Past Service Credits are credits that recognize the years you worked in a job classification that was not Covered Employment, but later becomes Covered Employment for that employer.

### How Do I Earn Past Service Credits?

You may earn a maximum of five Past Service Credits. These credits are earned on a one-for-one basis (one Past Service Credit for one Benefit Service Credit). Past Service Credits also count toward earning a Vesting Service Credit.

You earn one Past Service Credit in any year you meet the following requirements:

- You earn a Benefit Service Credit while in Covered Employment with your current employer, and
- Your past employer becomes or remains a Covered Employer, and
- Your past job classification is Covered Employment with that past employer.

For each Benefit Service Period, the number of Pension Credits you have earned is multiplied by the pension rate, and the results are added together. The total is your benefit amount for that Benefit Service Period.

### What Is a Benefit Service Period?

A Benefit Service Period is a period of time to which a particular pension rate applies. A Participant may have multiple Benefit Service Periods due to a gap in employment.

If you leave Covered Employment or are out of Covered Employment for a specific period of time, the Pension Credits you previously earned will be added together and a specific pension rate will be applied to them. Some Participants may have multiple pension rates applied in determining their benefit amount, while others may have only one.

### What is the Pension Rate?

The pension rates paid for Pension Credits have improved over the years. The pension rate is based on the pension rates that are in effect at your Effective Date. **Currently, the pension rate is \$32.00 per pension credit.**

More information may be found at [www.nebf.com](http://www.nebf.com)



# 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

Do you think it's true that apprenticeships are one of the best kept secrets?

If you could, would you want to make a difference in the life of a young person, and perhaps change their destiny?

Would you be interested in going back to the school you graduated from and share with the students there how they can have a rich and rewarding career choice without going to college and accumulating student debt?

Here's your opportunity! Schools are back in session, and thus begins the season for Career Fairs. Check out this list:

Salinas Adult School, Wednesday, Oct. 7

Everette Alvarez High School, Monday, Oct. 12

Hartnell College, Tuesday, Oct. 20

Alisal High School, Thursday, Nov. 5

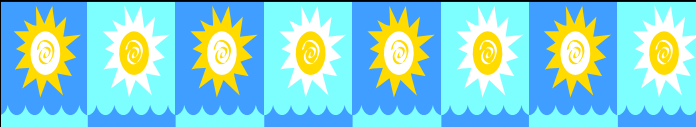
San Benito High School, Wednesday, Nov. 18

If you care to share your perspective on how an electrical apprenticeship has changed your life, and if you can do so enthusiastically to young people looking for a future, please contact me about attending one of these events! Call Ed at 633-3063!

**And the (4th place!) winner is:  
Nicholas Castillo!**



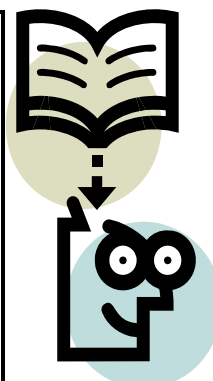
Nicholas represented our apprenticeship program in the Western Regional Competition held in Medford, Oregon on Sept. 26. Congratulations, Nick!



**Hey there, sunshine!**

**Two sunny items of interest are coming up...**

First, the installation of **our building's solar PV system** has been postponed, and is now scheduled for **Saturday, October 24**. Give me a call at 633-3063 if you'd like to get some hands-on solar panel installation experience with your Union brothers and sisters! Second, **see the insert** in this month's newsletter for information about the L.A. Local 11 Traveling Solar PV Road Show coming here Nov. 7 and 8, 2009!



**Foreman’s classes level 2 and 3 October 17 and November 14!**

On Saturday, October 17, Steven Asay will be here again from Utah to teach Electrical Project Supervision (EPS, otherwise known as Foreman’s class). This time out west he’s teaching EPS Level 2. If you didn’t have a chance to take his EPS Level 1 class, don’t let that stop you from signing up, attending, and taking home lot’s of valuable information from this Level 2 class that will give you a better perspective, and perhaps be a better leader, on the job!

On Saturday, November 14, Steven will journey west once more (before old man winter closes the mountain passes) to teach his version of EPS Level 3.

**Sign up now for these classes!**

Each class starts at 8 a.m. and goes to 4:30 p.m. on these Saturdays, with a break for lunch (bring your own!).

Each of these classes is good for 8 hours of Continuing Education that you won’t regret learning!

**APPRENTICES!**

You can sign up for these EPS or OSHA Saturday classes too!

The JATC would like to give a shout out and a **welcome back** to our Inside Apprenticeship teachers this semester:

2nd year: Joe Baxter

3rd year: Mark Rosas

4th year: Jimmie Moore

5th year: Mike Ihnot

**OSHA OSHA 30 is now on the calendar! OSHA**

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 633-3063 to sign up so we know how many books to have available!

JW’s, would you take any of these classes if they were offered? Call and let me know...

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

This class would be held 3 hours per night, 1 night per week for 11 weeks in length. Taking this class alone would fulfill all of your 32 hours of Continuing Education recertification requirements!

**EPRI Level 1 Certification Preparation Class**

As process controls and instrumentation go increasingly from pneumatic to digital and analog electronic systems, a new “school” of training and certification has been developed to ensure that folks are well trained to work with and calibrate complex industrial controls and automation. This class would be at least 10 nights at 3 hours per night to prepare someone to take the EPRI Level 1 certification exam, and some hands on time would be spent in San Jose at their EPRI labs.

## 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 can we 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, October 22nd, 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.



**10% Discount at**



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

## Manage your 9th District Pension Plan

Get the help of a Financial Representative

**Tuesday, October 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 October Birthday to the Following Members:

Salvatore Abramonte  
Joshua Bailey  
John Battaglia  
Michael Bradley  
Frank Davi  
Eugene Davis  
Daniel Fernandez  
Erik Guerrero  
Michael Higueta

David Karalius  
Jose Martinez  
Rogelio Martinez  
James Mauras  
Clarke Mccarty Jr  
Daniel Meyer  
Philippe Miccoli  
Juan Morales  
Lionardo Ortiz

Anthony Palmer  
Jack Russo  
Anatoliy Savin  
Richard P Smith  
Brad Lee Smith  
Jo Trammel  
David Vasquez  
Elfego Velasquez Jr.

# This Month's Local 234 Winners!

October 2009

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

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

Sue Carter won \$11 and donated it back.

## Apprentice Give-Away:

Raymond Sykes won \$23.40.

## Give-Away Winners:

Raymond Sykes won a pair of Klein Strippers.

Stefan Marceron won a 234 long-sleeve shirt.

Mike Ihnot won a bag.

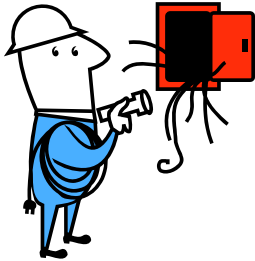


*"The worst crime against working people is a company which fails to operate at a profit."*

*-Samuel Gompers*

*1850-1924*

The next general membership meeting will be



**Wednesday, October 14th, 2009**  
@ 6:30 pm.



# October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 LMCC @ 4pm	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	15	16	17 EPS-2 8-4:30pm
18	19	20 JATC @ 5pm	21	22 Code of Excellence @ 5pm	23	24 IBEW 234 Solar Class Installation
25 End of Pay Period	26	27	28 Executive Board Meeting @ 6pm	29	30	31 Halloween

# SB 186—Workers' Compensation: Predesignation of Physician

Take Action to Protect Your Right to See Your Own Doctor if You Get Injured at Work!

Our right to see a predesignated doctor if we get injured on the job will terminate at the end of this year, unless SB 186 (DeSaulnier) gets signed into law.

This key bill, along with a number of others, is on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature. Please take a minute TODAY to contact the Governor in support on this important bill. If the Governor fails to sign SB 186 into law, workers will not be able to see their own doctor, whom they predesignated for Workers' Compensation, if they get injured on the job. We will all be forced to see the doctor your company chooses.

More information at [http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/workerscomp\\_presdesignatation\\_SB186](http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/workerscomp_presdesignatation_SB186)

Contact Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger TODAY at (916) 445-2841 or (415) 703-2218.



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»

# IBEW Local 234 Hosts L.A. Local 11 Traveling Solar Photovoltaic Roadshow!

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On **Saturday and Sunday, November 7 and 8**, our own Castroville training center is going to be the last stop ever for this mobile solar hands on training lab before L.A. puts their bus up on blocks. Their visit here is sponsored by our LMCC and will be put on in cooperation with our local IBEW 234 office and our JATC.

If you are a member of Local 234, this class will be **FREE** of charge to you! Keep in mind though, space is limited, and we are aggressively advertising this event statewide to the other locals and their JATC's. Their members will be allowed to attend for a \$200 registration fee. If you **call before Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>** to register your place in this weekend class, you will be given **priority registration**.

No deposit is being asked; however, if you register for this weekend class and find that you need to cancel without providing us at least 24 hours notice, we will have to charge you \$200.00 for the spot in the class we had saved for you.

This is the last opportunity to take advantage of the L.A. Local 11's traveling hands on solar photovoltaic training and an opportunity to gain 16 hours of continuing education in one weekend, so sign up soon!

# TWO DAY HANDS ON SOLAR PV TRAINING

(IBEW Local 11 Traveling PV Road Show)

November 7 & 8, 2009 (Saturday and Sunday)

Hosted by the IBEW Local 234 in Castroville California

10300 Merritt St. Castroville, CA 95012 (831) 633-3063 or 633-2311

This is your last chance to attend the L.A. Local 11 Traveling PV Road Show!

Get 16 hours of continuing education in one weekend!

**FREE** to IBEW Local 234 members... but you must register before Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>! Don't miss this last chance opportunity in solar training... Class sizes are limited; call now to register!

Hands-on training stations that you'll experience:

- I. Site evaluation
- II. System sizing
- III. String sizing
- IV. PV Module Testing
- V. Roof mounting
- VI. Rack assembly
- VII. Inverter wiring
- VIII. System testing & operation
- IX. System monitoring

**Class times are from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.  
Call (831) 633-3063 or (831) 633-2311 for more details!**