



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

IBEW Local 234

Newsletter



February 2010

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**The Electrical Workers Union for Monterey,
San Benito, and Santa Cruz County**

Business Manager's Report by Ken Scherpinski

Greetings Sisters & Brothers,

The work picture has not changed much. Many projects are having trouble getting start up loans. The jobs that have bid are small to medium size at best. Job calls for journeymen have followed the same

pattern. We currently have

40 on Book I and 64 on Book II. Sound and Communications has 2 on Book I and 2 on Book II.

The city of Monterey received a loan from the California Energy Commission for energy efficient lighting work. The city will use \$1.5 million dollars to change out tunnels, bike paths, and street lights to more efficient induction lights which will cut their energy bill by \$121,000 annually. They should also get utility rebates for the projects totaling another \$46,000.

President Obama recently announced that California would receive \$2.25 billion dollars in federal stimulus funds to jump start high-speed rail construction. This good news is desperately needed. This project stands to serve as an immediate catalyst for job creation and sustained economic growth. The California High-Speed Rail Project will create more than 160,000

construction jobs and an estimated 450,000 long-term jobs in maintenance, operations, supplies, and service related jobs. At a time when California is facing record unemployment, these jobs will set in motion a ripple effect across the state spurring economic growth and vitality.

I am hearing some concerns from members about Benesys; our third party administrator for the Health and Welfare plan. I have been able to help clear up most issues brought to my attention. If you are experiencing some difficulty with getting the answers you need, please call the office and we will assist you with your concerns. We will do everything in our power to get the matter immediately resolved.

I am interested to find out what you would like to read about in your newsletters. It is easy to report on topics I think would interest you. I would like to get your feedback. If there is a topic or subject you would like to receive more information on please let me know. You may have an appealing idea that others would also like to read about. You can send your thoughts to the office or email me at kscherpinski@ibew234.org. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

"We are built to conquer environment, solve problems, achieve goals, and we find no real satisfaction or happiness in life without obstacles to conquer and goals to achieve."

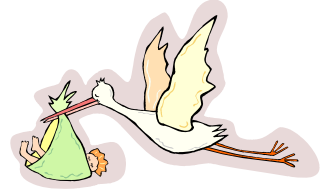
(Maxwell Martz)

New Arrivals: Handle with Care

CONGRATULATIONS!

Steven and Nancy Luiz welcomed a baby girl, Sophia Priscilla Luiz, on December 21, 2009.

David Martinez is the proud parent of Nicolas Martinez born on January 22, 2010.



Single-Payer, Universal Health Care Bill Clears California Senate

Last week, the California State Senate passed legislation that would guarantee comprehensive, universal health care to all Californians. The California Universal Health Care Act (SB 810) would create a Medicare-style private-public partnership to provide every California resident medical, dental, vision, hospitalization and prescription drug benefits and allow patients to choose their own doctors and hospitals. The bill is nearly identical to previous legislation (SB 840), which was passed by the California Legislature in 2008 and subsequently vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger.

With the future of federal health care reform still up in the air, the state cannot hesitate to pass its own reform to provide immediate relief and decent coverage to California families. Currently, California spends \$200 billion annually on a fragmented, inefficient health care system that wastes 30% of every dollar on administration. With SB 810, that wasteful spending is eliminated, and studies show that the state would save \$8 billion in the first year under SB 810.

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/bYRiu7>

Source: www.calaborfed.org

Health and Welfare Plan Update

A new Summary Plan Description (SPD) booklet is in the works for our Health and Welfare plan. Some of the new changes that the Trustees recently enacted are:

SECTION 6.32 – PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Effective as of April 1, 2009, charges incurred by a covered person for a physical examination are payable at the rate applicable to the provider performing the physical examination subject to usual, customary and reasonable limitations, except that there is no coverage if the physical examination is required as a condition of employment or that is necessary for a license.

SECTION 6.33 – IMMUNIZATIONS

Effective as of April 1, 2009, immunizations consistent with generally accepted medical standards are covered.

SECTION 6.34 – PHYSICAL THERAPY

Effective as of January 1, 2010, the Plan will pay for physical therapy visits up to **twenty** per calendar year; however, after the **third and twelfth** visits, an independent medical review (authorization) will be required to confirm that the additional physical therapy visits are necessary. Payment continues to be at 80% of the Network Allowance; for non-network providers, the patient pays the excess.

*H&W
Changes to
Physicals,
Immunizations,
and
Physical
Therapy.*

Haitian Disaster: How You Can Help

February 2010

Here's how you can assist Haitians in their devastated country. The AFL-CIO recommends the following organizations for donating to Haiti.

The [AFL-CIO Solidarity Center](#)'s Earthquake Relief for Haitian Workers' Campaign. You can send a check to: Solidarity Center Education Fund, 888 16th Street, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20006

Maximize the power of your contribution by visiting [UnionPlus.org/Haiti](#) and Union Plus will automatically double your contribution to the Solidarity Center. That means your \$10 becomes \$20, your \$25 becomes \$50 and your \$100 becomes \$200. Donations can be made at [UnionPlus.org/Haiti](#) or by sending a check to:

Solidarity Center Education Fund

Attn: Joan Welsh,
888 16th Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC, 20006

Please designate "Earthquake Relief for Haitian Workers" in the memo line of the check.

The [Transport Workers Union](#) has formed a disaster relief task force to enable the union to act immediately to help Haiti and stay for the long run. You can send donations to: TWU of America, 5705 NW 38 St., Miami Springs, FL 33166.

The Air Traffic Controllers ([NACTA](#)) is working with the Dominican Air Traffic Controllers Association (ADCA) to get supplies to Haitian controllers and their families. Members can send donations to the NACTA relief fund via Pay Pal, <https://www.paypal.com> and include this e-mail address when making your donation: natcarelief@nactadc.org. Or you can send a check payable to "NACTA relief" to: NACTA Relief, 1325 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20005.

[Partners in Health](#): or send your contribution to Partners In Health, P.O. Box 845578, Boston, MA 02284-5578. Partners in Health, which had staff on the ground in Haiti before the earthquake, provides daily updates on its assistance efforts.

[Doctors Without Borders](#): or call toll free at 1-888-392-0392. USA Headquarters 333 7th Ave., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10001-5004. Doctors Without Borders is a well-respected and highly effective humanitarian organization working in more than 60 countries to assist people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe.

[American Red Cross International Response Fund](#): or call toll free at 1-800-REDCROSS or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions also can be mailed to American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013 or to your local American Red Cross chapter (specify if you want to make sure your donation will benefit Haiti).

[United Way Worldwide Disaster Fund](#): or mail checks with the fund reference to United Way Worldwide, P.O. Box 630568, Baltimore, MD 21263-0568.



New Thermostats Help to Green the Hall

In December we had an energy audit by PG&E. As part of that energy audit, the PG&E representative recommended the PG&E SmartAC program. Through this program PG&E changed all the existing thermostats free of charge. The new programmable thermostats interface and track data online. During the hottest days from May 1 to October 31, when hundreds of thousands of air conditioners are operating at the same time, PG&E will send a signal to the SmartAC device to use slightly less power than normal. This small change in temperature will alleviate the strain on California's electrical system and reduce the likelihood of an inconvenient power interruption.

*More information
about the
program at
www.pge-smartac.com*



PG&E's SmartAC™ program
Help prevent power interruptions
from disrupting your summer.





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

The Electrical Workers Union for Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz County

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Are you ready for **2008**?



The **2008 National Electric Code**, that is!

Yes indeed, Significant Changes are coming to the NEC

... and you can learn what they are!

HOW? By taking the class "Significant Changes to the NEC 2008!"

WHEN? Monday evenings, beginning February 8, at 6 p.m. (course will be 10 weeks long. No class Feb. 15, President's Day)

WHERE? At the Training Center of the IBEW in Castroville

WHO? Mike Stone, Chief Electrical Inspector of the City of Salinas will be the instructor

COST? Your time is all! Members attend for free!

QUESTIONS? Call the JATC office at **633-3063!** Thanks!

SAN JOSE CONDUIT BENDING "DROP IN" CLASS

One of our members has been attending a Saturday conduit bending "drop in" class at the 908 Bern Ct. (SJ, 95112) location of the Local 332 Electrical Training Center. He called me to report that the class is structured in a 7 week cycle as follows: week 1: small conduit- 90's and back-to-back 90's; week 2: small conduit- offsets and parallel offsets; week 3: small conduit- 3 + 4 bend saddles; week 4: small conduit, combination of all bends; week 5: Chicago bender; week 6: Sidewinder bender; week 7: Table bender. Our member says that the class was on week 2 of the cycle on Saturday, Jan. 30, and that there will be no class on Feb. 13 of President's Day weekend. If you want to attend, just bring your current dues receipt with you and show up early to sign in. This class is on a first come, first in basis, and is free. It lets out around 3:30 p.m., so bring your lunch!



For a listing of other classes offered at the Santa Clara County Electrical JATC, check out their website at www.ejatc332.org

Progress is being made!

Our training center is seeing some improvements made, thanks to the help of those of you who have volunteered your time! Just take a look at how our small parts area is getting organized...



There's still lots to do, and I appreciate everyone who is stepping up to help out. The JATC hopes to have more hands-on training to offer, and your efforts are going to help make this possible!

SOLAR INSTALLER CERTIFICATION CLASS AND TEST UPDATE!

Instead of a smiley face, this sunny guy here should be pouting! The PV Certification test has actually begun the process of validation, and a few more trials need to be run by the psychologists before they release it as approved... So... if you took the Nov. 7 + 8 Solar PV class, maybe by March 2010 we'll be able to schedule the Certification Class and Test! Stay tuned!



Online Continuing Education Opportunities:

In a previous edition of this newsletter I pointed out that members can go online to www.ejatc332.org to get access to online continuing education. Another opportunity to access CA-state certification approved online coursework has come to my attention as well, at a slightly lower price. I make no recommendations as to its quality or ease of use, but am just passing this on to members who might be interested: Chris Shawbell says that if you call him at 415-259-4478, his company, www.castatetest.com, will provide a discounted cost of \$200 for 32 hours of online continuing education for Local 234 members.

Chris has provided this outline of those 32 hours of continuing education:

- 3hrs of Electrical Safety
- 4 hrs of Basic Electrical Theory
- 5 hrs of Basic AC Theory
- 5 hrs of Basic DC Theory
- 1 hr of Batteries
- 2 hrs of Prints & Specifications
- 2 hrs of AC Generators
- 1 hr of DC Generators
- 1 hr of AC Motors
- 2 hrs of Transformers
- 2 hrs of Test Instruments & Measuring
- 4 hrs of Motor Control Circuits

Chris says that you can read about his company's ability to offer continuing education credits accepted by the DAS at:

**[http://www.castatetest.com/
continuededucation/stateDAS.pdf](http://www.castatetest.com/continuededucation/stateDAS.pdf)**

Code of Excellence Class

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.

Reserve your place in the next Code of Excellence Class!

Next COE Class: Thursday, February 18th, 5pm-7pm



Go Green with our e-Edition!

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. There is a link under **Downloads, Newsletter** to the subscribe form.

Also, if you have a desire to receive your **birthday card** electronically, let us know by calling the Hall and talking with either Mira or Sallie. Or you may request to not receive a birthday card at all.

H&W Meeting for Members?

Are you interested in attending a health and welfare meeting hosted at IBEW Local 234? Would you like to meet with the Trustees or talk with representatives from Benesys, PHA, Delta Dental, or Sav-RX? If you would like to attend such an event or have suggestions on what you'd like to see at such an event, call the hall and talk with Mira or Sallie. We plan on making this event open to members and their immediate family.

Manage your 9th District Pension Plan

Get the help of a Financial Representative

Wednesday, February 10th, 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

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

Call Toll-Free
(800) 654-1485

Happy February Birthday to:

George Brandt
James Brown
Stanley Chen
Steven Foster
Ira Franklin
Erik Fritz
Ronald Garcia
Daniel Gilbertson
Jonathan Goddard
Steve Guyton
BJ Heading
Clayton Joseph
Rick Keaton

Michael Magana
James Mc Gill
Alan Minami
Kirk Morrison
Joshua Murray
Armin Neubert
Michael Nickals
Richard Regier
Paul Rivas
Paul Rivera
Gerard Rogers
Keith Rudd
Ray Sahlberg

Robert Scardina
Carlos Souza
Theodor Teman
Per Trondhjem
Heber L Tuazon
Derek Webster
Peter Willis

And

Mira Arizmendez



This Month's Local 234 Winners!

February 2010

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

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

Dave Butters won \$11 and donated it back.

Apprentice Give-Away:

Raymond Sykes II won \$23.40.

Give-Away Winners:

Stefan Marceron won a No-Dog 6" level.

Richard Smith won a Klein keychain.

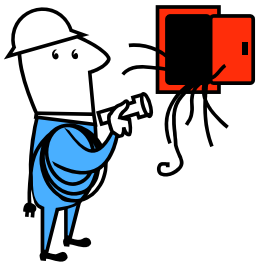
Raymond Sykes II won a US Army hat donated by Ken Scherpinski.

Dave Butters won a US Army t-shirt donated by Ken Scherpinski.



The strongest bond of human sympathy outside the family relation should be one uniting working people of all nations and tongues and kindreds.

-Abraham Lincoln



The next general membership meeting will be
Wednesday, February 10th, 2010
 @ 6:30 pm

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 LMCC @ 4pm	3	4	5	6
7	8 NEC Class @ 6pm	9	10 Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Holiday President's Day	16 JATC @ 5pm Mardi Gras	17 Ash Wednesday	18 Code of Excellence @ 5pm	19	20
21 End of Pay Period	22 NEC Class @ 6pm	23	24 Executive Board @ 6pm	25	26	27
28						

San Benito County Monthly Meetings

Help out Your Union by attending one of these meetings and report back any points of interest.

San Benito County Board of Supervisors

Meetings are held at 9am on the first, second, and fourth Tuesday of the month in the County Administration Building at 481 4th Street in Hollister.
(831) 636-4000

San Juan Bautista City Council

The City Council meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6pm in Council Chambers at City Hall, 311 Second Street, San Juan Bautista.
(831) 623-4661

Hollister School District

Meetings are held at 6 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Hollister School District, 2690 Cienega Road, Hollister.
(831) 630-6300

Hollister City Council

The City Council and Redevelopment Board meets on the first and third Monday of each month. Meeting are held at 6pm in Council Chambers at City Hall, 375 Fifth Street in Hollister.
(831) 636-4300

San Benito Office of Education

The County Board of Education meets on the second Thursday of each month, at 6 pm in the Board Room, San Benito County Office of Education, 460 Fifth Street, Hollister.
(831) 637-5393

San Benito High School District

Meetings of the Board of Trustees are usually held on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the DAVIS LIBRARY at 1220 Monterey Street in Hollister.
(831) 637-5831 x134



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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(831) 755-2313 Jobline

thehall@ibew234.org

www.ibew234.org
www.tricountyjatc.org



«field1» «field2» «field3»

«field4»

«field5»