



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

IBEW Local 234

Newsletter

March 2010

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Business Manager

Andy Hartmann
President

Charlie Ruiz
Vice President

Mike Ihnot
Treasurer

Stephen Slovacek
**Recording Secretary/
Registrar**

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Andy Gattis
Rick Keaton
Richard Smith
Executive Board

Jeremy Bigman
Robert Campbell
Phil DiGirolamo
Mike Reeves
Examining Board

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

Business Manager's Report by Ken Scherpinski

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

The winter is moving slowly as expected with few if any calls for work coming in. Remember to still call the job line everyday and to check-in for resign before the end of each month. At the writing of this article, with 47 members on Book 1, I want to be sure each member maintains their appropriate place for job

opportunities as they come about.

I recently attended the 9th District Business Managers and Organizing conference. The outlook throughout the district has not shown a lot of promise for the work picture but did show some hope of more job bidding for start up in late spring or early summer. The 9th District is currently the largest in membership in the country with the 3rd District at second place. The 3rd District is comprised of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Delaware. Out of 11 total districts in the IBEW, Districts 3, 6, and 9 are over 100,000 members, Districts 1, 4, and 5 are over 50,000 members, Districts 2, 7, and 11 are over 35,000 members, and Districts 8 and 10 are under 21,000 members. Over a 10 year period the 9th District has gained over 30% in membership with over 12% last year. Overall, only 3 districts showed gains last year.

There was a report that some of our Northwest locals in Washington and Oregon have been asked to submit applications for work in Canada. The process has been slow with the Canadian government tightening restrictions on work visas but when our brothers to the North refine the process it may open up opportunities for

all IBEW members to work with our Canadian brothers and sisters.

Some locals have not been able to start a first year apprenticeship class due to the work picture. Most are hoping to reverse this trend soon because we will still need to replace those retiring sisters and brothers, while at the same time, maintaining our professional, skilled workforce.

Are you still getting the IBEW Electrical Worker in the mail? Did you know you could get it electronically? If you would like to receive it by email, go to the IBEW International website (www.ibew.org) and click on "Go green with email delivery" fill in the blanks and you are set. You can also get this newsletter electronically. Go to our website at www.ibew234.org. Mouse over Downloads then go to Newsletter. You'll find a subscribe form at the top of the page.

The next union meeting is on Wednesday, March 10th at 6:30pm. We will have a special presentation from our International Representative, Steve Ray. He is going to explain the new "Market Advancement Initiative." This is a plan developed to regain work we currently do not perform. This will be a great opportunity to get the facts straight from the source and your chance to ask questions about the upcoming initiative.

Thank you to the members who have responded with suggestions and ideas for your newsletter. Feel free to keep the suggestions coming. I look forward to your input.

Be safe out there and I wish you and your family well.

"Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds."

- Albert Einstein



Tentative Ruling on La Bahia

Santa Cruz County Superior Court Judge Paul Burdick recently issued a tentative ruling on the La Bahia Hotel in favor of the group, Build a Better La Bahia. The La Bahia is a listed historic site, currently an apartment complex, located across from Main Beach near the Boardwalk in Santa Cruz. The Judge stated the city of Santa Cruz should have included an option to partially rehabilitate the historic site in their Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The EIR only contained either a complete restoration or complete demolition in the alternatives. The developer, Barry Swenson Builder, is attempting to demolish the existing structure and in its place construct a 125 room high-end hotel.

The tentative ruling was issued by Judge Burdick instead of a final decision because he wanted to read closing briefs by the city, the developer, and the attorney for Build a Better La Bahia. He said he would issue a final decision on March 19th at 1:30pm.

Local 234 has been involved with Build a Better La Bahia since its inception. The group is made up of neighbors, concerned citizens, union representatives, and historic preservationists. The group's united focus is for the hotel to be built within current zoning laws, include historic preservation, construct it with union labor, and then operate the new hotel with union labor. The group has been urging the developer to build a better La Bahia.

Volunteers Needed for Habitat for Humanity in Soquel

Habitat for Humanity is in the process of building a home for a low income family on Dawn Lane in Soquel. Dawn Lane is off Old San Jose Road, near Soquel High School. They are in the process of erecting walls. The roof should be completed in a few weeks. Near the end of March volunteers will be needed to help with the electrical. If you are interested in helping wire this house on a Saturday you have free, contact Andy Hartmann at (831) 594-7471. All levels of experience are welcome.

More information can be found on the Santa Cruz County Habitat for Humanity website at www.habitatsc.org.



Central Labor Council Scholarship

2010 Monterey Bay CLC Scholarship Application

The Monterey Bay Central Labor Council is continuing its scholarship program for members working in Monterey or Santa Cruz County whose local union participates in the Monterey Bay CLC.

This year the Labor Council will award a Cesar Chavez Memorial Scholarship of \$500 and a Johnny Mattos Scholarship of \$500.

In an essay from 100-200 words, write about "what does it mean for you to be part of a union family?" In answering the question, think about what work life, pay, and health care would be for you or others in your family without union membership. Also, what have you earned from participation by you or your family member's participation in the labor movement and/or other social justice movements.

Completed application, copies are available at the Hall, with transcript and union verification must be received at the Monterey Bay CLC Office by Friday, April 16th at 6pm. The CLC office is located at 931 E. Market Street, Salinas.



IBEW Founders' Scholarship

March 2010

The IBEW Founders' Scholarship honors the dedicated wiremen and linemen who, on November 28, 1891, organized the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Each year the officers of the IBEW are pleased to offer its working members scholarships on a competitive basis. It is hoped that the awards will not only contribute to the personal development of our members but also steward the electrical industry that our founders envisioned.

This award is for \$200 per semester credit hour at any accredited college or university toward an associate's, bachelor's or postgraduate degree in an approved field. The maximum distribution is \$24,000 per person over a period not to exceed eight years.

RULES FOR ENTRY

Founders' Scholarship competition is an adult program, to be used solely by IBEW members. It is NOT for the children of members.

1. Applicants must have been in continuous good standing and have paid dues without an Honorary Withdrawal for four years preceding May 1 of the scholarship year, or be charter members of a local union.
2. Each applicant must be recommended in writing by the local union business manager. If there is no business manager, then the recommendation must come from the local union president, system council chairman or general chairman.
3. At least two additional letters of recommendation must be sent by individuals who are familiar with the applicant's achievements and abilities.
4. Copies of all academic transcripts from high school, college, apprenticeship or other educational and developmental programs must be submitted.
5. A complete personal resumé is required. The resumé should outline education and work history, any special honors or awards, military service, involvement in union, local, civic, community or religious affairs.
6. Applicants are required to submit a 250-500 word essay. The title and topic must be: "How the Founders' Scholarship will benefit the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the electrical industry." The essay must be typed and double-spaced.
7. Applicants must submit a test score from the SAT I or the ACT. NO OTHER TESTING SERVICES ARE ACCEPTABLE. Archived scores or new test registration may be obtained by contacting: SAT www.collegeboard.org or ACT www.act.org. To send scores directly to the IBEW Founders' Scholarship, the code numbers are 0485 for SAT and 0697 for ACT. It is strongly suggested that any new test taken should be the SAT I.
8. Materials need not be sent at the same time but must be postmarked prior to May 1 of the scholarship year.

Selection of Winners

Awards will be based on academic achievement and potential, character, leadership, social awareness and career goals. The independent Founders' Scholarship Selection Committee will be composed of academic, professional and community representatives. They will examine the complete record of each scholarship applicant to choose the winners. All applicants will be notified, and the scholarship winners will be featured in the Electrical Worker.

Responsibility of Each Founders' Scholar

Scholarship winners must begin their studies in their next term or, at the latest, in January of the following year. Each term's earned grades must be sent to the Founders' Scholarship Administrator, together with a Founders' Scholarship Progress Sheet. After the first calendar year in the program, and by each August 1 thereafter, the annual Founders' Scholar paper is due. It must be at least 1,000 words on a labor-related topic, covering any aspect affecting the current labor movement or labor history. Scholarships are not transferable and are forfeited if the student withdraws or fails to meet the requirements for graduation from the school. If a serious life situation arises to prevent continuation of studies, the scholarship winner may request that the scholarship be held in abeyance for a maximum of one academic year.

Download an application at

<http://bit.ly/ibewfounders>





JATC Training News

By Ed Sudyka

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Center

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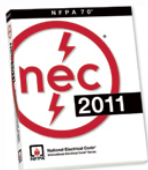
The Electrical Workers Union for Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz County

CERTIFIED FIBER OPTIC TECHNICIAN CLASS

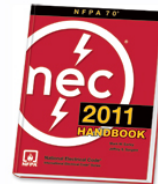
To provide the hands-on training and necessary equipment for fiber optic termination and splicing techniques, NorCal Sound and Communications JATC will be pulling their traveling Fiber Optic laboratory trailer into our Castroville training center on Saturday Mar. 20 and 27 and April 10 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

First priority in registering for this class will be given to NorCal Sound and Communications members. However, "empty" seats can be filled by Inside Wiremen interested in gaining this skill set. Minimum class size is 8, max. 16.

We're taking sign ups now, so call the Training Center to reserve your spot. No charge to Sound and Communications members. Inside members may be required to pay all or a percentage of the class cost that NorCal is charging us for each Inside member that attends. This could be as much as \$364.34, depending on number of students enrolled!



2011 National Electric Code Book Bargain Prices - Hot Off the Presses!



The NJATC is making a limited time offer to the nation's JATC's to purchase 2011 National Electric Code book at bulk quantity discount prices, and with no shipping charges! Our JATC is going to place an order for this new edition of the NEC for the apprenticeship classes. If you would like to join in our order for your own copy of this upcoming edition of the NEC, you can do so by contacting the JATC office as soon as possible. Member's price for a **softbound 2011 NEC** will be **\$57.91** (including sales tax!). Compare that to the NFPA members price of \$76.50 plus shipping! A **2011 NEC Handbook** will cost a member **\$97.43**. The NFPA member's price for the 2011 Handbook is \$134.10, plus shipping! Our order goes in on March 19, so contact the JATC office now to take advantage of these extreme savings on ordering the 2011 edition of the NEC soon to roll off the NFPA presses.



SOLAR PV CERTIFICATION CLASS UPDATE

Finally! For those of you who have been waiting anxiously for the chance to take the Certification Test to be a Certified IBEW Solar PV Installer, our JATC will be sending out 50 page booklets that will be your reading "homework" prior to taking the Certification class and test. The test is having it's last validation done now, and we hope to have the class and test in early April.

Training Center Projects (from the Training Director Wish List!):

Mount project boards in the workroom

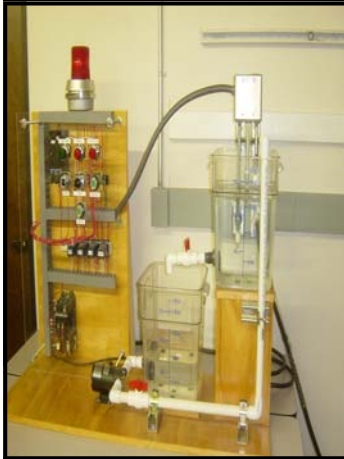
Assemble project modules: motor control, fire alarm, grounding, telephony,

Set up 3-way + 4-way light switching demonstration board

Develop a reference library for use by members; catalog books available

Mount computer display projectors from ceiling in several classrooms

Replace rusted soffit eave screening



Off work? Got some extra time on your hands? Want to get out of the house and do something that will benefit lots of others?

I've got just the thing! Our Training Center is getting better and better thanks to the help of folks just like you that have talent, skills, and now.... Opportunity! (i.e. free time!!!)

I can only pay you with gratitude for help you might give me making this place a more effective center for training. Call me and I'll match you with a project to make a difference!

CPR Recertification Class

Saturday, March 13, starting at 8 a.m.

We still have a few seats open in the class. Check your CPR card to see if it is still valid...

Graduates of the apprenticeship class of 2008– your card will expire soon! Call today



Check the victim for a pulse

ADAM.

Applications for the apprenticeship program will be accepted again beginning Tuesday May 4. Those applying by June 17 will be Aptitude tested on Saturday June 26. Will we start a class this year? I don't know... let's hope for full employment of our current apprentices, then we'll see what happens!

MDVOC Meeting



As a reminder the Membership Development Volunteer Organizing Committee (MDVOC) meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 5pm at the Union Hall. Please join us as we work together to improve our market share and increase our visibility. We are often our best kept secret and we are working to change that. If you have input or suggestions on how we can work collectively to attain our goals while maintaining or improving the lifestyle that we enjoy, this would be the time. Our industry and country have fallen into times that have not been experienced before. Our existing business model and involvement in the industry must adapt and evolve with the times. We ask that you get involved to make a difference in your Local. Join us and see how your involvement will make a difference.

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 would like 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. Both options are considered "green."

Manage your 9th District Pension Plan

Get the help of a Financial Representative

Thursday, March 11, Starting at 3pm.

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



Call Toll-Free
(800) 654-1485

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

Happy March Birthday to:

Lyle Abraham Jr
Stanley Arnbrister
William Beauchamp
Mark Breeding
Christopher Burditt
Patrick Cotter
James Crabtree
Anthony Davis
Willie Dietz
Juan Dominguez
Erik Dybdahl
Robert Earl

Peggy Evans
Leonard Gentry
Charles Gillis
Heath Guaracha
John Hawkins
Kyle Hirayama
Michael Holcroft
Saichi Kimoto
Tony Lazaro
Florentin Lozano
Paul Mahler
Michael Martinez

Mark Maschmeyer
Gilbert Munoz
James Myers
Juan Rodriguez
Ronald Rodriguez
Mark Rosas
Ricardo Rubio
Hermilo Ruiz
Kenneth Scherpinski
Marvin Swaithe
Mario Thomas
Manuel Valdez



This Month's Local 234 Winners!

March 2010

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

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

Alan Replogle won \$20 and donated it back.

Apprentice Give-Away:

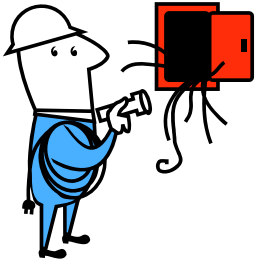
Raymond Sykes II won \$23.40.

Give-Away Winners:

BJ Heading won a Klein tool pouch.

Dave Butters won a Klein flat screwdriver and gave it to BJ Heading.

The next general membership meeting will be



Wednesday, March 10th, 2010
@ 6:30 pm



"No business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country. By living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence level - I mean the wages of decent living."

-Franklin Delano Roosevelt

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 2008 NEC Upgrade @ 6pm	2 LMCC @ 4pm	3	4	5	6
7	8 2008 NEC Upgrade @ 6pm	9 H&W Meeting @ 4pm	10 MDVOC @ 5pm Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	11 Principal @ 3pm	12	13 CPR @ 8am
14 Daylight Saving Time Beings	15 2008 NEC Upgrade @ 6pm	16 JATC @ 5pm	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Fiber Optics 8am-2:30pm
21	22 2008 NEC Upgrade @ 6pm	23	24 Executive/ Examining Board @ 6pm	25	26	27 Fiber Optics 8am-2:30pm
28 End of Pay Period	29 2008 NEC Upgrade @ 6pm	30	31			

COBRA Benefits Extended by Obama

President Obama recently signed into law legislation that provides a stopgap, 31-day extension of federal subsidies of COBRA health care premiums.

The measure was approved earlier by the Senate on a 78-19 vote, while the House passed it last week.

Under H.R. 4691, the 65%, 15-month premium subsidy for laid-off workers is extended to those involuntarily terminated from March 1 through March 31.

Without the extension, employees laid off after February 28 would have been ineligible for the subsidy.

The measure also will allow employees to receive the subsidy if they first lost group coverage due to a reduction in hours and then were terminated after enactment of the legislation, if certain conditions are met.

The Senate is continuing consideration of legislation, H.R. 4213, that would extend the premium subsidy to employees laid off through December 31, 2010.

Source: <http://www.businessinsurance.com/article/20100303/NEWS/100309976>



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

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www.tricountyjatc.org



«field1» «field2» «field3»

«field4»

«field5»