



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

# IBEW Local 234

## Newsletter



January 2010

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

## **Business Manager's Report** by Ken Scherpinski

Happy New Year Sisters and Brothers. I hope the New Year brings you and your family good luck and good health.

The start of the year shows 32 on Book I and 66 on Book II. Sound & Communication has one on Book I and three on Book II. Job calls are slow with some short calls that came in through the holidays. Our man hours were down for 2009 an average of 3k per month from 2008 and our

average members on Book I were 28. I am looking forward to an upturn in construction in 2010 with the hopes of surpassing our average man hours of 07' and 08' (which was around 38k per month).

President Hill recently made some interesting statements about our industry: *"We need to think of our business as a matter of influence."*

*"We only work if our contractors are awarded work."*

*"We need our Market Share back; we need to grab it by the throat and make changes; and a strong Market Share means a strong Union."*

One of the changes President Hill is referring to will be a nationwide Small Works Agreement. We in the 9th District are being allowed to craft an agreement to best suit each region with the realization that one size does not fit all. The Business Managers are working with the 9th District Representatives and will meet in Oakland on January 6th to put an agreement in place.

Another change already adopted by the International addresses Book I status. The language will state: "Once an applicant qualifies for, requests, and is granted Group I status in any local, he shall retain that status in the local union and shall not be required to requalify unless

he qualifies for, requests, and is granted Group I status in any local union. If that situation occurs, the applicant would have to requalify for Group I status in any previous local union(s) in which he previously enjoyed Group I status." This helps to clarify Group I (Book I) status for every member in the IBEW and means you can only enjoy Book I in one local at any one time. Should you have any questions on these changes I am always available to talk with you.

At our last Health & Welfare meeting our plan seems to be holding its own. I know there have been some pains with the change in administrators, but Benesys overall has done a good job getting things in order. Please take advantage of the member services that are now in place to help track your health care. As always we are here to assist each member in any way. If there is an issue let us know so it can be corrected ASAP.

When was the last time you checked your pension? It was a rough year for all of us, but with the market showing some signs of recovery, now is a good time to take a look at your investments. The Principal Group suggests you check this at least twice a year. There is a very professional representative here once a month to meet with. James Boisse is very knowledgeable and can help you make well informed decisions so that you become comfortable with your retirement future. Check pages 6 and 7 for the next time to meet.

If you have not taken a Code of Excellence class I am encouraging you to do so. Many of our members have completed this insightful class on industry awareness and how we want to be viewed in the public eye. Call the office to attend the next class on Thursday, January 21st. These hours count as continuing education for your State Certification.

I would like to remind all to please be safe out there for the other brothers and sisters you work with, for your family, and most importantly yourself.

## Solar System is Online

We recently received the final inspection on our photovoltaic installation. After a much anticipated debut, the system is now online. The 6.6kW DC system is producing power and spinning the meter backwards (on sunny days). It is also uploading information to <http://bit.ly/SunnyPortal>. There is also a link on our website to view the historical production of the photovoltaic system. Check it out!



## Local 234 is a Certified Green Business

On Thursday, December 3rd, IBEW Local 234 became the first union to be a certified green business. We have been working with Jenilee Napalan of the County of Monterey on meeting the requirements of this program. With some "green" education of our staff and few minor improvements to the building, our business, including the JATC, was able to become green certified. We are now listed under CERTIFIED GREEN BUSINESS TESTIMONIAL at <http://bit.ly/ibewgreen>.



"The 400 members and staff of IBEW Local 234 are very proud to become a Monterey Bay Area Certified Green Business. It was important to our membership that we pursue this certification in order to demonstrate our commitment to the idea of sustainability. As the electrical union for the Monterey Bay area we are concerned with economic and social justice for all workers, it seemed only natural that we include environmental consideration and well-being, to become truly sustainable."

—Andy Hartmann, President



## Second Harvest Food Drive

Many thanks to our apprenticeship classes. They have once again been the driving force behind our annual food drive for the Second Harvest Food Bank. Our lowest paid workers made the most donations despite the down turn in the economy. The Second Year Class dominated with a whopping and impressive 116 pounds per student. The apprenticeship classes were partially motivated by a generous donation by the LMCC to provide a pizza dinner for the winning class. Thanks also to those of you that made food, cash, and online donations. We appreciate the support.

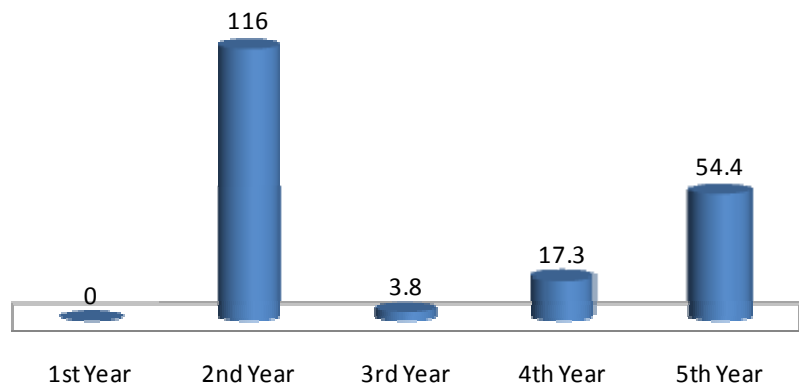
It's not too late, you may still make a donation by visiting our website [www.ibew234.org](http://www.ibew234.org) and donating today. There is a link at the bottom of the page for the "IBEW Local 234 Holiday Food Drive."

To date we have collected and donated:

16 lbs. of food  
\$776

Or the equivalent of 2,344 lbs.

### Apprenticeship Food Drive Results



# No-Dog Levels

January 2010

There are Ron Aubrey No-Dog levels for sale at the Union Hall. They are \$15 each. The No-Dog is a handy tool for electricians to eliminate "dog-legs" in offsets and saddles. The levels come in a variety of colors and are engraved with "IBEW Local 234". Measuring 1/2" by 1" by 2", it is useful as a spacer with multiple runs of conduit. The size also makes it convenient to carry. The No-Dog can fit easily in a pocket, tool box, or can be clipped to a hardhat or tool pouch.

How to use a No-Dog:

1. Position conduit in bender.
2. Attach "No-Dog" to conduit at either end. Do not move "No-Dog" until all the bends are finished to insure that all bends will be on the same plane.
3. Adjust bender pressure on conduit so conduit is snug yet loose enough to be turned with a pair of channel locks, pipe wrench or chain wrench.
4. Turn conduit until "No-Dog" shows level.
5. Bend conduit to desired angle.
6. Release bender pressure.
7. Turn conduit 180 degrees and position at next bend mark.
8. Repeat steps 3 and 4.
9. Make next bend.
10. For additional bends on same plane, repeat steps 6, 7, 8, and 9.



## Help Reshape California - Apply to Join the New Citizens Redistricting Commission

California must redraw the boundaries of its Senate, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts every 10 years, to reflect the new federal census population data.

In November 2008, California voters authorized the creation of the Citizens Redistricting Commission when they passed the Voters FIRST Act, which appeared as Proposition 11. Prior to 2008, California legislators drew the districts.

The Act requires the California State Auditor to initiate an application process for selecting the members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

The voters gave the California State Auditor's office the responsibility of initiating the commission application because they wanted a nonpartisan entity – without political ties or conflicts of interest and who understands how government works – to be in control of selecting the first eight members of the Commission that will ultimately redraw the boundaries.

The Citizens Redistricting Commission must draw the district boundaries in

conformity with strict, nonpartisan rules designed to create districts of relatively equal population that will provide fair representation for all Californians.

Eleven other states currently utilize non-partisan or bi-partisan redistricting commissions composed of non-office-holding citizens. The states include: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Washington. Arkansas and Ohio use redistricting commissions that are wholly composed of elected officials.

The commission will be comprised of 14 members - five members who are Democrats, five members who are Republicans, and four members who are neither Democrats nor Republicans.

In California, registered voters are eligible to serve on the commission if they have been continuously registered in California with the same political party, or with no political party, for the five years immediately prior to being appointed to the

commission; and they have voted in at least two of the last three statewide general elections.

A voter may not serve on the commission if the voter or a member of his or her immediate family has been appointed to, elected to, or been a candidate for a California congressional or state office; served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a California political party or of the campaign committee of a candidate for California congressional or elective state office; or has been a registered lobbyist.

The commission will vote to approve the three maps—one for the Senate districts, one for the Assembly districts, and one for the Board of Equalization districts. Once the commission has approved the three final maps, the maps are certified to the Secretary of State with a report explaining the basis on which the commission made its decisions.

[wedrawthelines.ca.gov](http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov)



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

## **Solar Photovoltaic Certification Test...How about... February? 2010?**

Well, as this article goes to press, I have yet to hear back from the folks who are involved in the process of validating the Solar PV test that will be used for the certification of IBEW members who have taken the Local 11 Traveling Solar PV roadshow (presented at this local on Nov. 7 + 8, 2009).

The hope was to have this test validation process finished by the Holidays, and that we would then be able to offer the follow up class and test sometime in January (that is, this month!). However, I'd better not set the date for the class until I hear that the test validation process is complete.

So.... For all of you who took the LA Solar PV roadshow, keep your eyes peeled for the February (2010!) newsletter for the scheduling of this certification class and test. We'll probably offer it on a weekday evening and also on a Saturday so that you can choose the class that best fits your schedule.

## **Online web-based Continuing Education available!**

If you're a JW looking to get your 32 hours of CE done, you might consider the convenience of online education. For a listing of courses available online, go to [ejatc332.org](http://ejatc332.org), click the "Education and Training" tab under the "Member resources" column. Chose "Off Site Courses" and you'll find a list of online courses available for continuing education.

## **Other opportunities for JW classes: How about over the hill?**

Did you know that you can also take classes at the Santa Clara County Electrical Training center? If you see a class on their website that you are interested in, give them a call. If space is available, they will allow 234 members into their classes.

Their website is located at: [ejatc332.org](http://ejatc332.org)

For your convenience, the following is a listing of the courses that are scheduled in the near future at SCCEJATC, which is located at 908 Bern Ct., San Jose, 95112.

CODE CALCULATIONS: Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5 to 8 p.m. beginning JANUARY 12, 2010

HVAC: Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5 to 8 p.m. beginning JANUARY 12, 2010

CPR AND FIRST AID: Saturday, FEBRUARY 20, 2010 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

To take any of the above classes you must pre-register with your dues receipt before the class starts. Registration is at the Electrical JATC @ 908 Bern Court, San Jose, 95112. This is 1/2 mile north of 101 at the 13th street off ramp. Space is limited for all classes.

THE FOLLOWING ARE DROP IN CLASSES! NO NEED TO SIGN UP!

PIPE BENDING: SATURDAYS 8AM-4PM

CODE REVIEW: SATURDAYS 8AM-11:30AM

SPACE IS LIMITED-ARRIVE ON TIME

NO CLASS ON HOLIDAY WEEKENDS

Please call 408-453-1022 or email [Jessica@ejatc332.org](mailto:Jessica@ejatc332.org) if you have any questions.

## **Volunteer Your Time**

Would you like to volunteer? The JATC could use help with various projects. All skill levels are welcome. The projects vary in time and scope, from simple to more involved. Some of the projects include painting, organizing material, and setting up class labs. Any time you have to volunteer would be greatly appreciated. Even a half hour would help out. Thanks to all of you that have recently volunteered your time to make this JATC better. We appreciate you!

## **JATC To Do List**

- Replace under eave vents that have been corroded out by rust and picked apart by birds.
- Assemble shelving units for JATC file boxes, motor control components, and book library.
- Assemble parts rack, label bins, and stock with components and hardware.
- Mount project matrix boards on walls of workroom.
- Assemble motor control, PLC, and fire alarm components onto project boards to mount to wall matrix boards as needed for class hands-on exercises.
- Set up Allen Bradley SLC 500 Programmable Logic Controller with demonstrator and PC interface.
- Build heavy-duty motor caddy to store and transport motors to classrooms.
- Move 2' by 3' by 6' paint cabinet to outside storage.
- Assemble storage unit for conference room table to replace legs and provide storage for extra fold up tables when not in use.
- Sort, catalogue, and shelf books for our reference library.
- Sort and shelf motor control components for hands-on demonstrations.
- Mount DVD player, TV, computer and projector onto cart for multi-media classroom presentations.
- Ceiling mount at least one computer projector in a class room and cable down to wall jacks.

## 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, January 21st, 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](http://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 if you're so inclined you may request to not receive a birthday card at all.

## Information Changed?

Has any of your information changed? Keep the Hall up to date. If any of your information need updating, let us know. New address, phone number, married, dependants, etc. Call or stop by the Hall to update your information.



## Manage your 9th District Pension Plan

Get the help of a Financial Representative

**Tuesday, January 26th, 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 January Birthday to:



Abraham Adams Jr.  
Joseph Antoni  
Frank Baca  
Cosimo Borgomini  
Mark Clough  
Sage Coleman  
Sean Curry  
Ruth Dean  
John Dion  
Scott Gaffney  
Ralph Garcia  
Malcolm Gayman  
Michael Gruel  
Gregory Hague  
Harold Haste

Carl Huboi  
Valentin Ivanov  
Jesus Martin Jara  
Philip Karleen Jr.  
Sean Kent  
Christopher Kiner  
Leland Knisley  
Michael Kulich  
Juan Leon  
Raul Luna  
Julian Macias  
Ronald Martinez  
George Mellone  
Jose Moncada  
Ernesto Morales

Daniel Patterson  
Steven Petree  
Luke Poljak  
Nicholas Prelgovisk  
Reynold Ramirez  
Manuel Ramos  
Dana Saccullo  
Delbert Slaughter  
Eugene Tomlinson  
Jaime Urzua  
Norman Wiedemann  
Michael Wolfe  
Jim Zupkus

# This Month's Local 234 Winners!

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

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

Susan Carter won \$15 and donated it back.

## Apprentice Give-Away:

Raymond Sykes II won \$23.40.

## Give-Away Winners:

Stefan Marceron won a Klein jab saw.

Richard Smith won a Klein screwdriver donated by Mike Ihnot.

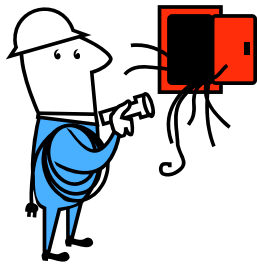
Susan Carter won a Kelin tool pouch.



"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves."

- Bill Vaughan

The next general membership meeting will be



**Wednesday, January 13th, 2010**  
@ 6:30 pm

# January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <b>Holiday</b> New Year's Day	2
3	4	5 LMCC @ 4pm	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	14	15	16
17	18 <b>Holiday</b> MLK, Jr.	19 JATC @ 5pm	20	21 Code of Excellence @ 5pm	22	23
24 End of Pay Period	25	26 Principal @ 3pm	27 Executive Board @ 6pm	28	29	30
31						

# Santa Cruz County Monthly Meetings

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

## Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

<http://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/bds/Govstream/archive/ArchiveIndex.asp>

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Meetings begin at 9am at 701 Ocean Street, Room 525, Santa Cruz.

## Scotts Valley City Council

[http://www.scottsvally.org/council/city\\_council.html](http://www.scottsvally.org/council/city_council.html)

First and third Wednesday of the month. Meetings begin at 6 pm in the City Council Chambers at One Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley. Regular Meetings are broadcast live on Community TV, channel 25.

## Santa Cruz City Council

<http://www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us/index.aspx?page=268>

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Meetings begin at 3 and 7pm in Council Chambers at 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz. Regular meetings are televised on Community TV, channel 25.

## Capitola City Council

<http://www.ci.capitola.ca.us/capcity.nsf/CtyCnclIntro.html>

Second and fourth Thursday of the month immediately following the Redevelopment Agency Meeting, at 7pm in the City Hall Council Chambers at 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola.

## Watsonville City Council

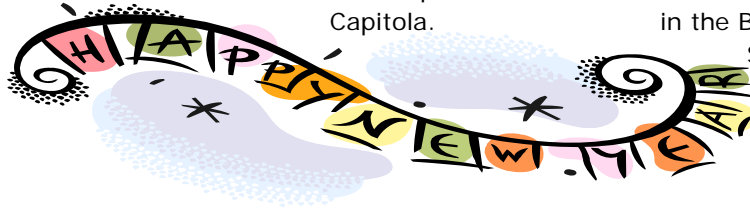
<http://www.ci.watsonville.ca.us/departments/council/council.html>

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Meetings begin at 4pm and again after the Redevelopment Agency Meeting in the Civic Plaza Council Chambers at 275 Main Street, 4th floor, Watsonville. Meetings are televised live on Channel 70 for subscribers of Charter Communications.

## Santa Cruz County Office of Education

<http://www.santacruz.k12.ca.us/board/boardcalendar.html>

Third Thursday of the month at 2 pm in the Board Room at 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz.



## International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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«field1» «field2» «field3»

«field4»

«field5»