

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

Local 234 Newsletter



Business Manager's Report by Ken Scherpinski

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

Summer has come and gone and I hope everyone took a little time to enjoy a family outing, maybe a bar-b-que or some local events and entertainment.

I recently returned from the 9th District Progress Meeting in Seattle, Washington. Stephen Slovacek, our Recording Secretary/Registrar, and Andy Hartmann, our President, also attended. The 9th District is made up of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Northern Idaho, Nevada, Hawaii, and Guam with representatives present from all of those states. Local 234 was recognized at the conference for outstanding effort in organizing "Above and Beyond" in furthering the purposes of the IBEW. This was a fitting tribute to acknowledge the hard work and effort put forth everyday by your organizing staff. New membership for the IBEW (of which the 9th District accounted for 76% of all increases with Las Vegas and Los Angeles leading the way) was one of the topics discussed. One of the host locals talked about the decline of journeyman and apprentice wireman who work in the ship building industry. Even more alarming were the facts brought to light about the increasing arms build up by China's and the Soviet Union's naval fleets. As they build more ships and submarines the United States' fleet is declining along with talk about outsourcing our future ship building to overseas countries. This concept is so wrong on so many levels! America should never depend on foreign suppliers or a labor force which has no concern about the product that will be used to

defend our nation and protect our men and women serving this country. There comes a time when cheap won't cut it and we need to remind our elected officials; "Built by Americans, for Americans!"

Are you ready for the upcoming election? If we educate ourselves on the issues and the candidates the choices become easy and the results favorable. Look closely at what these people will do for you (labor) or even more importantly how have they hurt or just plain disrespected Union labor and the middle class. Vote your job and vote your family's future!

I look forward to seeing you all at the Local 234 annual picnic with your families. The picnic is Saturday, September 6th at the Buckeye site in Toro Park, off Highway 68. RSVP for a free parking pass.

Please notice the Non-Union Tracking System (N.U.T.S.) insert. We're very excited about the start of this new program. We look forward to the memberships participation. If you would like further explanation of the program contact Paul Gutierrez at (831) 594-5882.

Until then, remember, a little extra safety never hurts anyone!!

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
Derek Webster
Executive Board

Jeremy Bigman
Robert Campbell
Phil DiGirolamo
Mike Reeves
Examining Board

Local 234 Registrar's Report by Stephen Slovacek

REPORT FROM IBEW 2008 PROGRESS MEETING,
SEATTLE WASHINGTON,

August 19 through 22, 2008:

I was honored to represent our Local, as your Registrar, for this very important Progress Meeting. We in the electrical construction industry appreciate how very important and difficult it can be to determine exactly how on any given issue effecting us and our families a prospective candidate will act. This was addressed at the meeting.

One keynote for the meeting was how very important it is to act and vote for our own family's economic self interest and not be misled to actually vote against what is in our family's own best interest. (It does happen, fact: the past eight years bear sobering testament to how an extremely small number of select few have benefitted a tremendous amount at the total expense of all the rest of us.)

Another equally important keynote stressed the importance of evaluating candidates based on issues thereby keeping personality the non-issue it really is. This leads back to the first; how has a given candidate historically voted on issues directly related to my family's economic interests?

Finally and perhaps most important a third keynote stressed the issue of how our prevailing wages have been systematically attacked over the past eight years. There has been a full frontal attack against our family's economic best interest.

It has occurred politically, through the economic forces of cost inflation and relative wage stagnation.

How can we keep all of this in perspective when during political campaigns statements are made and advertisements run to vigorously persuade us? There are alternatives where we can learn which "News" is truthful and which are simply infomercials or political propaganda masquerading as news. Two websites which help are mediamatters.org and factcheck.org. The first essentially clarifies what is fact and what is fiction as presented by Fox and other similar Rupert Murdoch media outlets. The second basically claims to be neutral and they do fault whomever they believe mischaracterizes the truth. Anyone choosing to visit either site may find out the organizations proclivities by clicking on the 'About Us' tab.

Finally, as your Registrar it is my duty to affirm, verify and support all eligible members and their family members desiring to vote by assisting with them with becoming registered voters where needed. Please contact us at the Local for how we can assist you, your family and friends with registering.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

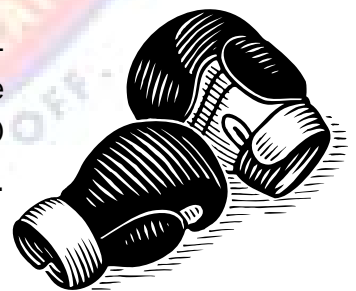
Stephen Slovacek

Recording Secretary/Registrar

Local 234 Sponsors Mixed Martial Artist Henry Cortez

At the last General Meeting, the membership voted to sponsor Local 234 member, Henry Cortez. Henry will be fighting in the "Battle by the Sea" at the Salinas Sports Complex, September 12th, 2008. Doors Open at 5:30pm. \$30 General Admission. Get tickets at www.wargods.tv or www.tickets.com.

Come and support Henry's professional debut.



Congratulations to:

<p>Kasey & Jennifer Jeska Married July 12th, 2008</p>	<p>Joaquin Correa- Mickel Born July 16th, 2008 Lilyana Mickel</p>	<p>Glen & Valerie Herrera Born July 27th, 2008 Eliot Herrera</p>	<p>Anthony & Priscilla Kalstrom Born July 31st, 2008 Claire & Chloe Kalstrom</p>
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IRS Increases Mileage Rate

The Internal Revenue Service announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rates for the final six months of 2008.

The rate will increase to **58.5 cents** a mile for all business miles driven from July 1, 2008 through Dec. 31, 2008.

This is an increase of eight (8) cents from the 50.5 cent rate in effect for the first six months of 2008, as set forth in Rev. Proc. 2007-70.

Source: <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article>

Are You Registered with ERTS?

If you are traveling outside of Local 234 you should be registered with the **Electronic Reciprocal Transfer System**. ERTS will ensure that your

benefits are sent to your home local no matter where you are working. Come into the hall and let us help you get registered.

Manage your 9th District Pension Plan

Get the help of a Financial Representative

Wednesday, September 10th Starting at 3pm.

A Financial Representative will be at the hall to assist anyone with their 9th District Pension plan account with either setting up, accessing, or managing funds. 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
(408) 437-7220 Ext. 77220
foster.mark@principal.com
or

James Boisse
Financial Representative
(408) 437-7200 Ext. 77245
(510) 409-2886 cell
boisse.james@principal.com



September 2008 JATC Training News

Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee

Ed Sudyka, Training Director
Shary Greene, Admin. Asst.
831.633.3063 office
831.633.3068 fax
Trainingibew234@sbcglobal.net

Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz Counties

BACK TO SCHOOL DAZE! (With a twist!)

This school year the JATC is breaking with tradition and changing the nights of school to Monday and Wednesday for the 1st and 2nd year apprentices, and Tuesday and Thursday for the 3rd, 4th and 5th year apprentices. The time will remain the same, from 6 to 8:50 p.m.

This change is greeted with open arms by some folks, found to be inconvenient for others, and is even painful for a few. Never the less this change has been made by the Committee to help alleviate our overcrowded parking situation as our program grows in the number of apprentices indentured. Unfortunately, our parking lot does not.

The Committee appreciates your patience as we adjust to this new schedule. It is our hope that the **teachers** will make some changes in their lesson plans to put more of the homework burden after the last class of the week, rather than splitting it between the two class nights.

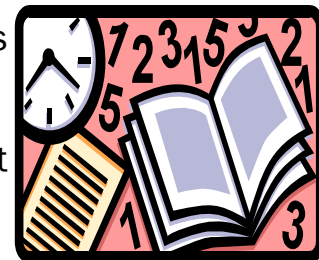
So WELCOME BACK, APPRENTICES and TEACHERS!

The first night of school for the 1st and 2nd year classes is Wednesday, September 3, 2008.

For the 3rd, 4th and 5th year classes, the first night back will be Thursday, September 4, 2008.

I hope you've enjoyed your summer, now we go back to the books! See you around the Training Center...soon!

Ed Sudyka, Training Director





Journeyman! Did you get your certificate listing the hours for the Upgrade classes you've taken here? Call us if you see a problem with what you think you've earned, and what we've reported. We make mistakes too (occasionally)!

The JATC office is still working on compiling the hours for the Advanced Motor Controls Class taught by Michael Holcroft in the summer of 2007. We hope to have that information, as well as the hours for the Mark Rosas 2006 Summer Solar class out to you all shortly.

Speaking of Upgrade classes... what's next on the calendar?

After a busy summer of hosting many upgrade classes, we're now trying to set the "FALL 2008" Upgrade class schedule. Call us with your class request... Do you need to obtain your 32 hours of Continuing Education for your State Certification Renewal? If we offered a 33 hour class on the Significant Changes in the 2005 NEC, would you attend to make that happen? Give us a call and let us know! 633-3063 for your input on class listings!



Answer to August Question(s) of the Month: 1. Why did that fuse blow inside the meter when you weren't thinking and took a voltage reading with the probe leads connected in the amp reading sockets? 2. Was that dangerous????

Answer: 1. Because you did a dumb thing and 2. Heck yes! Fortunately, the folks that built the meter knew that someone someday would attempt to run a voltage test with the leads in the current sockets. To obtain a current reading, the meter is put in series with the circuit. All the voltage you are testing sees is a load, and a load with little resistance at that! Without fuse protection, the meter would be close to a dead short across the voltage source. With proper fuse protection, the meter can save your life and not blow up in your hands and face. Two things to remember: 1. always replace blown fuses with the correct fuses recommended by the meter maker to insure your protection (they may be expensive, but it's cheap insurance!) and 2. Understand the category rating of the meter, so you don't expose yourself to more electrical potential than that for which the meter is rated.

September Question of the Month: Category rating for my meter? What the heck is that all about? Does that mean what voltage it's good for? My Wiggy will measure up to 480! **Is that what a category rating means?**

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE AFL-CIO



BARACK OBAMA Building an Economy That Works for All

Barack Obama says working families' current economic hardships were not "inevitable." They resulted from irresponsible economic policies by the Bush administration that gave tax breaks to the rich while cutting working family priorities. Obama is committed to putting fairness and opportunity for working families back in America's economy.

Obama Proposed \$10 Billion to Help Homeowners Refinance Mortgages.

"Obama pledged \$10 billion to increase pre-foreclosure counseling and help 'responsible homeowners' refinance their mortgages or sell their homes." (*Boston Globe*, 1/14/08)

Obama Would Create Mortgage Credit to Help Struggling Families. Obama proposes a "10 percent universal mortgage credit to provide homeowners who do not itemize tax relief. This credit will provide an average of \$500 to 10 million homeowners, the majority of whom earn less than \$50,000 per year." (Obama for America website)

Obama Voted Twice Against Bush Tax Cuts for the Wealthy.

Obama voted against tax cuts of \$60 billion and \$70 billion that would be paid for by huge cuts to programs vital to working families. Three-quarters of the benefits would go to families making \$100,000 or more a year. (S. 2020, Vote 347, 11/18/05; H.R. 4297, Vote 118, 5/11/06)

Obama Voted Against \$50 Billion in Spending Cuts for Vital Working Family Programs.

Obama voted against \$50 billion in spending cuts for programs vital for working families. The cuts included \$39.7 billion for Medicaid, Medicare, student aid and child-support enforcement. (S. 1932, Vote 363, 12/21/05)

www.WorkingFamiliesVote08.org

This Month's Local 234 Winners!

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

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

Mike Ihnot won \$18.00 and donated it back.

Apprentice Drawing:

Joaquin Correa-Mickel won \$23.40 and donated \$3.40 to C.O.P.E.

Give-Away Winners:

Enrique Lara won a No-Dog level.

Joaquin Correa-Mickel won a long-sleeve IBEW shirt.

Dave Butters won a Frisbee.

The next general membership meeting will be

Wednesday, September 10, 2008 @ 6:30 pm.

“We must learn to live together as brothers or we are going to perish together as fools.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

New Members Initiated

Please welcome the following new Local 234 members:

Joaquin Correa-Mickel

Enrique Lara

September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Holiday	2 LMCC @ 5pm	3 Resign Ends ←	4	5	6 Local 234 BBQ ToroPark@noon
7	8	9	10 Union Meeting @ 6:30pm	11	12	13
14	15 Resign Begins →	16 JATC @ 6pm	17	18	19	20
21 End of Pay Period	22	23	24 E-Board @ 6pm	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Don't Forget the Local 234 Picnic



Saturday, September 6, 2008

Toro Regional Park, Buckeye Group Area

11am to 2pm, Lunch at Noon

We need an accurate count of all attendees.

Please RSVP the IBEW Office so that we can send you a free entrance pass for the park.

The Plumbers and Pipefitters will be joining us again this year.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Enjoy good food, good company, bounce house,
face painting, and piñatas.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

10300 Merritt Street
Castroville, CA 95012



(800) 499-4239
(831) 373-1411
(831) 633-2311
(831) 633-0570 fax

(831) 633-3063 Education & Training
(831) 633-3068 Education & Training fax
(831) 755-2313 Jobline

www.ibew234.org
www.tricountyjatc.org

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
IBEW LOCAL 234
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CASTROVILLE, CA
PERMIT NO. 410

«field1» «field2» «field3»

«field4»

«field5»



Help Local 234 track the non-union competition in our jurisdiction

Local 234 N.U.T.S. Report Form

(Non-Union Tracking System)

REQUIRED INFORMATION	
JOB: _____	DATE: / /
CITY: _____	
CROSS STREET: _____ & _____	
<u>TYPE OF WORK</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential Remodel
<input type="checkbox"/> New Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Remodel
<input type="checkbox"/> New Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Remodel
<input type="checkbox"/> Service Work	<input type="checkbox"/> Street Lighting/Signal
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
Stage of Job: <input type="checkbox"/> Underground <input type="checkbox"/> Rough <input type="checkbox"/> Trim	
SUBMITTED BY: _____	PHONE #: ()
	Email: _____

BONUS INFORMATION	
Developer/Owner: _____	
General Contractor: _____	
Electrical Contractor: _____	Phone No: _____
License Number: # _____	
<u>Additional useful jobsite information: (phone numbers, other contractors, etc.)</u>	

Information may be submitted via:

Drop off or mail: IBEW Local 234 (NUTS) - 10300 Merritt St. - Castroville, CA 95012

Fax: (831) 633-0570

Together we can make a difference!!!!



Local 234 N.U.T.S. Report Rules (Non-Union Tracking System)

IBEW Local 234
10300 Merritt Street
Castroville, CA 95012
(831) 633-2311
(831) 633-0570 fax

Points Rules:

1 pt. – For each N.U.T.S. Report turned in with the **REQUIRED INFORMATION** field filled in completely.

1 pt. – Additional for **BONUS INFORMATION** field.

How points are earned:

- **First report** earns 1 pt. and a N.U.T.S. hardhat sticker.
- **5 pts.** – earns a ticket for the drawing. Tickets will be awarded for each additional 5 pts. earned (10, 15, 20, etc.) Drawing for a \$100.00 Visa or equal card will take place at the last Local Union Meeting of each quarter. **You must be present to win!!**
- **10 pts.** – earns you a N.U.T.S. T-shirt.

How do I report jobs?

- Pick up a N.U.T.S. Report Form containing a blank N.U.T.S. form and contest rules at the Union Hall reception desk.
- Keep your eyes open for work wherever you are. If you see a job site, fill out a form. Get as much information as you can visually, do not contact the workers personally.
- Make sure you fill the **REQUIRED INFORMATION** field as best you can.
- Mail or Fax the completed report to the hall, or leave the form/s with a secretary in the office.
- Reported job sites will be verified by the Organizers or members of the Development Committee.
- A running list of reported jobs will be posted at the Union Hall.
- Points will be awarded for the **first 5 reports** (from different individuals) about any given job site. After the fifth report the jobsite will no longer be eligible for point award status.
- A running list of points earned will also be posted for reference.