

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

IBEW Local 234 Newsletter

The Electrical Worker's Union for Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties

October 2021

Local 234 Officers:



Lamont Adams
**Business Manager/
Financial Secretary**

Mike Ihnot
President

Al Randall
Vice President

Nick Prelgovisk
Treasurer

Stephen Slovacek
Recording Secretary

John Agra
Andy Gattis
Trudi Teller
Ryan Porter
Executive Board

Business Manager's Report by Lamont Adams

Sisters and Brothers,

On the Inside out-of-work list we have 33 on Book 1, 14 on Book 2, 13 on Book 3, and 1 on Book 4. There is 1 on Book 1 for Sound & Comm, 0 on Book 2, 0 on Book 3, and 0 on Book 4. There are 1 on CW Book 1 and 0 on CW Book 2. There are 3 Inside apprentices on the out-of-work list.

At the September general body meeting the members decided to hold the Inside wage allocation by mail. A wage allocation committee was formed to create a list of options for an online survey.

From this survey, the three most popular options will be selected and put up for a vote. Ballots have been mailed to Inside members and must be returned to the union hall in the self-addresses stamped envelope no later than **October 18, 2021**. Only members in good standing will be allowed to vote. Please make sure to put your name and card number on the ballot. The Inside wage allocation of \$4.75 will go into effect **December 27, 2021**.

Sound and Communications members have a wage allocation of \$4.00 that will go into effect **December 1, 2021**. The Northern California Business Managers and I will be sending out a wage survey to the S&C members this month. Just like the Inside survey, the most popular options will be put up for a vote.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual campaign to increase awareness of the disease. When detected and treated early most women and men can survive. One in eight women develops breast cancer in her lifetime. Although rare, men can also contract breast cancer and over 400 me die annually from the disease. Thanks to screenings such as mammograms and breast exams, breast cancer is easy to detect early. Visit your doctor regularly and make healthy living a priority. The Breast Cancer Assistance Group of Monterey County (BCAG) is a nonprofit organization that partners with

local businesses to raise funds and awareness to enable BCAG to help local breast cancer patients experiencing financial hardship due to their diagnosis and treatment. To make a donation visit their website at www.bcagmc.org.

Thanks to our get out the vote efforts Governor Newsom has survived the recall. Thank you to all who voted to keep California on the right path and to protect the hard fought gains we have made for working men and women. As we look towards a brighter future for our state, we must continue to lobby our local representatives as well. We have several local elections coming up and we need your help to get labor friendly people elected. If you can volunteer to represent your local contact me at **(831) 731-0927 or lamont@ibew234.org**.

There have been many questions about vaccine mandates and our ability to keep the freedom of choice. While several jobsites in our jurisdiction have made vaccines mandatory, the IBEW and NECA have not negotiated a vaccine mandate for our members. The members are not being forced to get vaccinated. I encourage everyone to educate themselves with as much information as possible to help make a decision for yourself and your family.

Do you remember what it was like when you first joined the IBEW and Local 234? Take the time to welcome our new members and apprentices. Help make our new members feel welcome and educate them on the lifestyle and culture of being a good union member and trade unionist. We will be having new member orientation at our November General Body meeting. It will be held at 5:00 pm on **November 10, 2021**. Food will be provided and your spouse is welcome to attend.

Halloween is a fun and festive holiday but we still need to remember to be safe. If you plan to take your children out trick or treating, remember to carry glow sticks or a flashlight. If you are driving, please slow down and be alert. Also remember COVID-19 is still affecting our community, so wear your mask and avoid large crowds.

Have a great October and
Happy Halloween!



Prevention With Little Steps by Rasha Aniag



Cell: 831-731-0460
rasha@ibew234.org

Greetings all!

As we are in Fall, and with Open Enrollment just around the corner, I invite you all to close your eyes, take 3 slow meaningful breaths (9 seconds inhale, 3 seconds to hold, 9 seconds to exhale) and let go of all that is making you tense to make room for the energy of the new season. As a reminder, I would like to go over some key notes in terms of insurance.

1. In general, most employer-based insurance policies cover 80% of medical costs after deductibles have been met. This means that the employee is responsible for a) deductible b) co-pay, if applicable c) 20% of the total bill costs. The employer provides access to health insurance in agreement with the employee to share principal costs, hence deductible
2. Dental & Vision insurance policies work more like coupons where the employer chooses the procedures that they will cover while the employee agrees to cover any additional costs/ additional procedures. For example, generally speaking, most dental policies may cover 2 prophylactic procedures (teeth cleanings, + or - x-rays) per year. The dentist may recommend 3 teeth cleanings depending on how well the individual maintains the health of their teeth.
3. Some employers may offer Health Savings Accounts to help with co-pays and some medical expenses. However, the employee may be asked to provide proof that the expense is indeed a medical expense (this means HAS may or may not recognize Dental or Vision expenses as an authorized use of the account although it may belong to you).
4. Bottom line: Just because you have insurance does not mean all procedures are covered.

With this being said, I highly encourage you to review your insurance policies and ask questions. In parallel, I highly encourage you all to invest in preventative/self-care:

- a. A 30-minute walk daily in total to promote body circulation & emotional liberation
- b. Preservative-free foods as your primary nourishment to strengthen your immune system and the functionality of your body as a machine
- c. Vent to someone as needed & take time to reflect daily to promote cognitive function and wellness

Your well-being will cost either your time & energy or your dollar. It is your choice!

Call, text or email me with questions!

Benny Card

The Benny Card, aka: HRA, contributions are \$1.50 per hour as of right now.

Eligible participants (and spouses) with a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) will be issued a Prepaid MasterCard (Benny Card) also known as a "Debit Card" or "Benny Prepaid Card".

An HRA Account may be used for eligible medical expenses not covered under the Plan, such as the deductible and/or co-payments. In addition, a Participant may use his or her HRA Account to make Self-Payments and/or COBRA payments for his or her coverage under the Plan, when otherwise eligible to make such payments.

The Benny Card allows you to directly pay for qualified health care expenses not covered by the Plan.

Please note:

- May be used for deductibles / copays
- Self payments for insurance coverage / COBRA
- Items such as: covered prescription copay, lasik or glasses, orthodontics, out of pocket dentist fees.

The HRA / Benny card will not cover all items so if a letter is received regarding an audit on your card, please make sure to get the trust fund the required documents. If not your Benny card will be suspended.

Please feel free to contact the Union Hall with any questions!

Thinking of Retiring?

In the next few newsletters we will be focusing on some key points to remember as you get closer to retirement.

Installment II : IBEW Pension Benefit

Benefits for "A" Members:

- Normal Pension:** An "A" member who (1) is in continuous good standing with five or more years immediately preceding application and who (2) has attained the age of 65 years, shall receive pension benefits of \$4.50 per month for each full year of continuous "A" membership.
- Early Retirement Pension:** An "A" member who (1) is in continuous good standing with twenty (20) or more years immediately preceding application and who (2) has attained the age of 62 years, may elect to receive reduced benefits. Benefits are computed on the normal pension rate and then reduced by six and two-thirds percent (6 2/3%) for each year the member is under the age of 65.
- Disability Pension:** An "A" member who (1) is totally disabled and who (2) has had continuous good standing of twenty (20) or more years.
- Vested Pension:** An "A" member who (1) has completed twenty (20) or more of continuous good standing and who (2) ceases to be engaged in the electrical industry prior to age of 65 may obtain a vested right to pension benefits, but not disability or death benefits. The benefit amount will be computed on the \$4.50 per month of continuous good membership minus \$4.50 per month for every each year or part thereof for every year member was under the age of 65 at the approval of application.

	NORMAL	EARLY	DISABILITY	VESTED
Years to gain eligibility	5	20	20	20
Members Retirement Age	65	62-64	Approximately 38-64	65
Restrictions	May not work in the Electrical Industry *	May not work in the Electrical Industry *	May not work at all	May not work in the Electrical Industry *
Disincentives	None	Reduced Monthly Rate	Must await determination of Disability	Loss of Death and Disability Rights
Benefits effective Jan.1, 2007	\$4.50 per year for continuous standing as an "A" member	Same as Normal less 6.66% for each year under age 65	Same as Normal	Same as Normal, less \$4.50 for each year Vested applicant is under age 65
Optional Spouse's Benefit	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Not Eligible

** Continuous Good Standing: A good year is maintaining from one anniversary date to the next. For example, a member initiated in December must pay dues through the following November to earn a year of good standing.

** "Vesting" is the act of freezing the accumulated right to a pension benefit.

** Arrears: is defined as being late on your dues payments—even by one day will effect your pension and death benefits.

Spousal Benefits: A reduced pension benefit payable for the life of the member, with the provision that, upon members death, one-half (1/2) of the reduced pension will be paid to the surviving spouse as long as the spouse lives.

Please feel free to contact the Union Hall at (831) 633-2311 to discuss your individual IBEW PBF amounts / years.

Tri-County Electrical JATC Training News

(831) 741-9069

ALL upgrade classes have gone back to 100% in-person learning at the training center

CPR/First Aid Certification Class

A **CPR/First Aid class** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 9th** from **8am—1pm**. Instructor Merralinda Goddard will be teaching the basics of First Aid and CPR.

Contact Stacy with the JATC at (831) 741-9069 to sign up and reserve your space.

If you reserve a space and do not show up for class, you will be responsible for paying for the class.

Limited space available—sign up soon!

2017 NEC Significant Changes Class

Instructor David Martinez has scheduled a **Significant Changes** class for **Tuesday, October 19th from 5:30—8:30 pm**. This is a once a month class but depending on demand and attendance, a second date may be added.

Contact Stacy at stacy@tricityjetc.org to reserve your place.

Part—Time Position Available

The JATC has an opening for a part-time Receptionist with light clerical duties. The hours will be Mondays through Thursdays, 12pm—5pm.

REQUIRED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- ◆ Excellent communication skills in person, on the phone, and in writing
- ◆ Competency in word processing, databases, and email (specifically Microsoft Office)
- ◆ Strong attention to details and ability to follow instructions
- ◆ Confidentiality
- ◆ Data management
- ◆ Capability of working independently or with little supervision
- ◆ Consistency, dependability, and punctuality

TITLE: Receptionist / Clerical
COMPENSATION: Commensurate with experience
ESTIMATED START: Immediately
LOCATION: 10300 Merritt Street, in Castroville, CA

If you know anyone interested in the Receptionist position at the JATC, please have them submit a resume at:

info@tricityjetc.org

Instructors Needed

The JATC is still looking for instructors to teach an Inside apprenticeship class and Journeyman upgrade classes. If you are interested in sharing your experience and knowledge with the future of the IBEW, please contact Lamont Adams (831-731-0927) or Stacy Rubalcava (info@tricityjetc.org) at the JATC. There are minimum qualifications requirements to be an instructor for the Community College system that need to be satisfied with Hartnell College.

Milwaukee Apprentice of the Month

The Apprentice of the Month program is sponsored by Milwaukee Tools. The goal is to encourage apprentice participation and reward a high performing student for achieving outstanding results both in the classroom and on the job.

For **September 2021** the JATC has chosen to recognize:

2nd-year: Frank Rodriguez

as the Milwaukee Apprentice of the Month. The apprentice of the month will have a dedicated parking space at the Training Center and also receive a gift provided by Milwaukee.



LMCC Education Quarterly Drawing is Back!

The LMCC holds a quarterly gift card drawing, however with Covid and the class postponements, the LMCC has not done a drawing since 2020. For this drawing all of the names and hours were compiled since January of 2020. The LMCC will be back on schedule doing the drawing every quarter moving forward.

(2) \$100 gifts cards are awarded for those taking JW upgrade classes. One gift card goes to the member with the most hours of class completed. The other gift card is awarded by lottery. Every four hours of completed classes will equal one entry in the lottery, with no limit. The member with most hours is ineligible for the lottery.

The winners for **October** were **Lloyd Eads** for the most hours of training and **Manuel Garcia** for the lottery. Congratulations! Each will receive a \$100 gift card.

New Member Life Events

We love to share our members accomplishments! Please email or call Natasha at **831-633-2311** or **natasha@ibew234.org** with your good news. Marriages, Births, or other exciting news, so we can share it in our monthly newsletter!

Wage Allocation

Ballots have been mailed out to members with this year's allocation options.

The options were chosen from the wage allocation sub-committee's recommendations that were emailed out as a survey. The top three off of the survey are available to vote on. The option with the most votes will go into effect on December 27th of 2021.

Please fill out your name and card number and your choice for allocation of the \$4.75 raise and send back in the self addressed stamped envelope at your earliest convenience. The voting period will be through October 18th—Any ballots received after the 18th will not be counted.

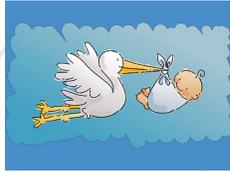
Any ballots with out members name and card number will be invalid. Any member who is not in good standing will have their vote discarded.

We look forward to all of you voting!

Electrical Exam Prep

JADE Learning offers the most comprehensive online master and journeyman electrical exam prep. Practice tests feature over 600 state-specific questions that are formulated like the real exam. Our exam prep will help you increase your test-taking speed, navigate the National Electrical Code, and identify strengths and weaknesses.

[Learn More!](#)



Congratulations

Congratulations to Miguel Huerta Ponce on the birth of his baby girl: Johana Huerta born on 9/16/2021. Welcome to the world Johana.

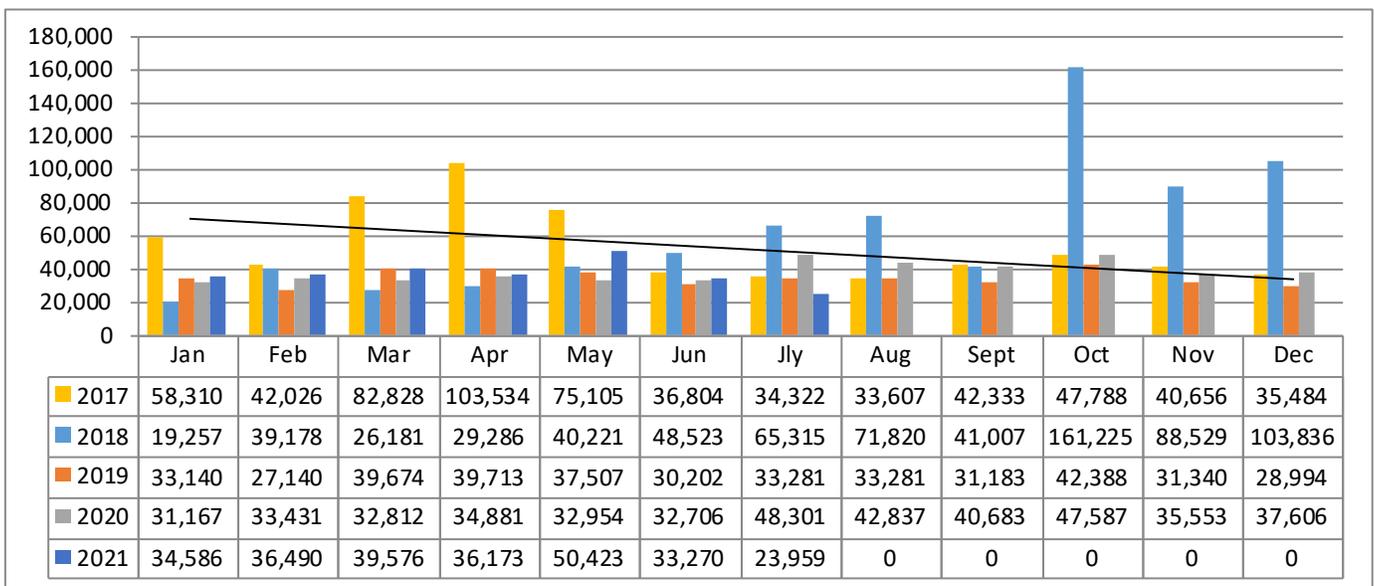
Breast Cancer Awareness

Breast cancer is the second most common cancer in women — and one of the easiest to detect early, thanks to screenings such as mammograms and breast exams.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an important time to build awareness that screenings can save lives and to show why most women can survive breast cancer if it's found and treated early. One in eight women develops breast cancer in her lifetime.

If interested in donating: <https://www.bcagmc.org/> or shop at one of the local American Cancer Society discovery shops

Monthly Hours Report



Happy October Birthdays!

Salvatore Abramonte
John Battaglia
Jeffrey Beers
Scott Benson
Joel Berrueco
Sergio Birrueta
Michael Bradley
Javier Contreras
Brayan Cruz-Elizalde
Frank Davi
Eugene Davis
Sergio Diaz
Rigoberto Garcia
Erik Guerrero

Eric Guzman
Elijah Herrera
Michael Higueta
Davi Karalius
Juan Leon
Michael Marquez
James Mauras
Clarke McCarty, Jr.
Robert Melgar
Miguel Mexicano
Philippe Miccoli
Juan Morales
Ricardo Morales
Antonio Navarrete
Christopher Olsen

Lionardo Ortiz
Ryan Porter
Vincent Reyes
Luis Rodriguez
Jack Russo
Anatoliy Savin
Brad Smith
Richard Smith
Francisco Sosa
Michael Steel
Ramon Torres, Jr.
David Vasquez
Edgar Velasquez
Moises Zuniga, Jr.



This Month's Local 234 Winners!

Voluntary PAC (Political Action Committee): Mike Ihnot
 Won \$5.00

Apprentice Give-Away: \$23.40—Angel Lopez Magana

Give-Away Winners:

Carlos Prado won an IBEW Money Clip
 James Stanchfield won an IBEW Local 26 t-shirt
 Angel Lopez Magana won an IBEW 25' measuring tape

General membership meetings are the second Wednesday of each month. The next general membership meeting has been scheduled on Wednesday, October 13th at 6:30 PM

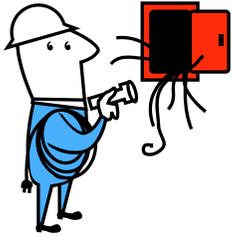
Face masks are required for entry into building

October 2021

Quote of the Month

“You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.”

~Christopher Columbus



October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 CPR / First Aid @ 8:00 AM
10	11 Columbus Day	12	13 General Body Meeting @ 6:30PM	14	15	16
17	18	19 JATC Meeting @ 4:00PM Significant Changes @ 5:30 PM	20	21	22	23
24 / 31 Halloween	25	26	27 E-Board Meeting @ 6:00PM	28	29	30



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234



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

IBEW Local 234
10300 Merritt Street
Castroville, CA 95012
www.ibew234.org
(800) 499-4239
(831) 633-2311
(831) 633-0570 fax
thehall@ibew234.org
(831) 633-JOBS (5627)
Job line

**Tri-County Electrical
JATC**
www.tricountyjatc.org
info@tricountyjatc.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

