



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

IBEW Local 234 Newsletter

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

November 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 32 on Book 1, 35 on Book 2, 10 on Book 3, and 2 on Book 4. There is 1 on Book 1 for Sound & Comm, 1 on Book 2, 0 on Book 3, and 0 on Book 4. There is 0 on CW Book 1 and 0 on CW Book 2. There are 5 Inside apprentices on the out-of-work list.

The Inside wage allocation ballots for the \$4.75 raise have been received and counted. Based on the votes received the Membership allocated \$3.50 towards wages, \$1.00 towards

pension, and \$0.25 towards the Benny Card. There will be 3% for NEBF deducted from the \$3.50. The new Journeyman hourly rate will be \$56.80. The increase will go into effect **December 27, 2021**. Thank you to everyone for participating.

Sound and Communications members have a wage allocation of \$4.00 that will go into effect **December 1, 2021**. The vote is currently being held online. By now all S&C members should have received an email from the IBEW Negotiating Committee. Please take a few moments to cast your ballot for the allocation of the raise. Your ballot choices are anonymous and will be compiled to determine how the upcoming raise is allocated. There is a Ranked Choice Ballot, so please make sure that the choices are in the order you prefer.

There are several local elections happening in November and December of 2021. I am asking that you support Delores Morales for Hollister City Council District 3, on November 2nd. Delores is a union member and has been a great advocate for Labor for many years. Santa Cruz is also having an election on November 2nd. A yes vote on Measure A will amend the Santa Cruz city charter to allocate 20% of the revenue from the city's marijuana

business tax to youth and early childhood development programs and services. Watsonville will also be having a special Municipal election on December 7, 2021. I am asking you to support Vanessa Quiroz-Carter. Vanessa is has worked for non-profits in Watsonville for over 20 years and is supported by our local Labor Organizations. Elections matter and who we elect to represent us matters the most. Whether you vote by mail or in person, remember it's your civic duty to vote in each and every election.

In September, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted to approve an indoor mask ordinance. The mask mandate would only be triggered if the county's COVID-19 transmission rate is considered high or substantial, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data. On Friday, October 29th the county moved into the "substantial" tier according to the CDC. Therefore, enforcement of the mandate will begin after a grace period on Friday, November 5, 2021. The mandate will remain in effect for 30 days or until the board of supervisors ends it.

We will be having new member orientation before the 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. Please contact the Hall to RSVP.

Thursday, November 11th is **Veteran's Day** and is a Holiday for the Inside and CE/CWs, not for Sound and Communications. **Thursday, November 25th** and **Friday the 26th** are Holidays for the inside, Sound and Communications, and CECWs.

Sunday, November 28, 2021 is the 130th Anniversary of the founding of the IBEW. The National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was founded on November 28, 1891. As you celebrate Thanksgiving this year also celebrate what the IBEW has meant to you and your family.





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

Prevention With Little Steps by Rasha Aniang

Greetings all!

As the last spring leaf turns brown in preparation for the winter, it is understood that sometimes sunshine and the warmth of the summer is not always guaranteed.

With the pandemic hanging over our heads for the past year in a half, some challenges have become harder to bare as the whole globe is in survival mode and in some parts, mandated isolation. Let this past year and a half be a reminder to keep our loved ones close, take care of ourselves, cherish the moments of joy, and reflect on adversity when we gather during the holidays.

Transitions, milestones, and challenges are a part of life, but it seems like they have occurred more frequently under the shadow of the pandemic. This is a reminder that if you are overwhelmed, you do not have to go through any of it alone.

Please be kind to yourself and one another this Fall. Please do not hesitate to call if you find yourself facing difficulties.

H&W Benefit : New Hearing Aid Allowance

Effective November 1, 2021, the Fund will provide a \$1,500 per ear allowance for hearing aid devices with a 36-month frequency limitation period per device beginning on the date of purchase. This benefit is available to all eligible active participants, non-Medicare retirees and their dependents. After the 36-month period, the \$1,500 per ear allowance renews. To receive reimbursement for hearing aid device purchases up to the \$1,500 per ear allowance, please submit a copy of your itemized invoice, receipt, and prescription for the device to the Fund Office. The invoice must include the name of the patient, date of service, description of each service and the amount charged for each service. The \$1,500 allowance can be applied to any medically necessary hearing aid device and provider of your choice.

Additionally, a hearing aid discount network called TruHearing® has partnered with VSP® to provide exclusive savings to all VSP covered Plan members that can be combined with the hearing aid allowance. Discounts through TruHearing on hearing aid devices range between 30% to 60% and include major brands.

To take advantage of these free and optional TruHearing discounts, you must contact TruHearing via the toll-free number (877) 396-7194 and indicate that you have VSP coverage. A TruHearing consultant will then answer questions and schedule a hearing exam with a network provider. The cost for an initial hearing exam will vary but will not exceed \$75. At the hearing exam appointment, the network provider will recommend hearing aids that accommodate hearing loss, budget, and lifestyle. You are responsible for any charges associated with the routine hearing exam and testing. These charges may be submitted under Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) for reimbursement. Following the initial exam, three (3) free follow-up appointments will be included for fittings, adjustments, and ongoing education to ensure satisfaction. These follow-up appointments must be used within the three-year warranty period.

Any additional visit beyond the first three appointments can cost no more than \$65 per visit. Additionally, a 45-day trial for each hearing aid purchase is included. If the hearing aids are returned within 45 days of purchase, a full refund will be provided. You must notify the Fund Office in writing if you have returned your hearing aid device and, in turn, refund the Fund Office for the dispersed allowance. You may submit another reimbursement request upon your next purchase of hearing aids, should you desire. Of course, you have the option to go to any hearing aid provider of your choice. Using the TruHearing program however gives you the opportunity to save on brand name devices and receive additional services. Please contact the Fund Office or the Union Hall if you have any questions regarding this new benefit or your eligibility for Plan benefits.

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 III : NEBF: National Electrical Benefit Fund

On your first day of covered employment, you became a participant in the National Electrical Benefit Fund (NEBF). Every hour you work in covered employment will count toward your eligibility for a benefit from the NEBF.

You are considered vested when you have accumulated 5 vesting service credits. Different rules apply to becoming vested prior to January 1, 1988.

If you are not vested and incur a break in service, you lose all vesting service credits and pension credits that you have accumulated. However, if you retire at age 65 or older and have not lost your pension credits, you may be eligible for a benefit even if you are not vested.

It is recommended that you contact NEBF at least one year before your anticipated retirement. This will allow you and other sources time to gather and submit any required documents and information and will allow NEBF the necessary time to have your benefit ready for your intended retirement date.

The easiest and quickest way to receive an estimate of your benefits is through the Online Benefits Portal. To receive this estimate, register as a 'New User' or log in to the [Online Benefits Portal](#) and click 'Benefit Estimate' in the left-hand navigation tab. Your estimate will be generated for you in a matter of minutes. Alternatively, you can find out the status of your benefits, by downloading a [Request for Status Information form](#), by email to benefits_website@nebf.com or you can submit a signed, written request that includes your Social Security number to the NEBF office.

The NEBF offers two types of benefits to its eligible participants: Retirement Benefits and a Disability Benefit.

Retirement Benefits- Are available to eligible Participants who have retired from the electrical industry. There are two types of Retirement Benefits: Normal Retirement Benefit and Early Retirement Benefit.

Normal Retirement

You are eligible to receive a Normal Retirement Benefit when you meet the requirements in either A or B below:

Eligibility Requirements

A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are Vested, and • You are age 65 or older, and • You are retired from the electrical industry.
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OR

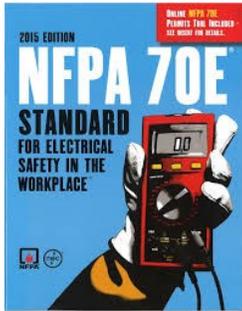
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are not Vested, and • You are age 65 or older, and • You are retired from the electrical industry, and • You have retained Pension Credits.
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Early Retirement will be in December's newsletter

Tri-County Electrical JATC Training News

(831) 741-9069

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



NFPA 70E

NFPA 70E on **Saturday, November 6th** from **8:00 am – 2:00pm** with David Martinez

Limited Space! Please contact Stacy with the JATC at (831) 741-9069 to sign up.
Masks are required if not vaccinated.

2017 NEC Significant Changes Class

Instructor David Martinez has scheduled a **Significant Changes** class for **Tuesday, November 16th 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@tricountyjatc.org to reserve your place.

Congratulations on Completing Class

Significant Changes to the 2017 NEC Held on 10/18/2021

Steve Luiz, Chris Olsen, Chad Vargas and Ralph Yniguez

CPR / First Aid Training Held on 10/9/2021

Scott Benson, Sergio Diaz, Gerardo Espinoza, Kyle Evans, Sean Kent, Ronald Lance, Jose Munoz, Aladdin Preston, Juan Rodrigues, and Gilbert Sanchez

Donate To The JATC When You Shop

Shop at **AmazonSmile** when you shop at Amazon. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the **Tri-County Electrical JATC**. Start your shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7114317

The Tri-County Electrical JATC is a non-profit 501(c)3. Donations are tax-deductible.



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@tricountyjatc.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 **November 2021** the JATC has chosen to recognize:

3rd-year: Tyler Kendall

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.



Wage Allocation

The Membership has spoken!

The raise negotiated for 2021 was \$4.75. Based on the votes received the Membership allocated the following:
\$3.50 towards wages

The 3% for NEBF will be deducted from this amount

\$1.00 towards pension

\$0.25 towards the Benny Card

The new wage sheet should be ready to share by the end of the month!

Members only Online Access to Pay Dues

Remember: The IBEW will not pay out any benefits to your family in the event of your death IF your dues are not up to date. Even one day late can mean no benefits.

You may access your online profile at <https://m.gotomyunion.com>. Or download the **ISAQR** app at

Apple Store: <https://goo.gl/GxYXtk>

Google Play: <https://goo.gl/LqvSt7>

Please contact the office if you need your individual username and password again.
831-633-2311

Objects of the IBEW

To celebrate the **130th Anniversary of the IBEW** let's remember the objectives:

To organize all workers in the entire electrical industry in the United States and Canada, including all those in public utilities and electrical manufacturing, into local unions,

To promote reasonable methods of work,

To cultivate feelings of friendship among those of our industry,

To settle all disputes between employers and employees by arbitration (if possible.)

To assist each other in sickness or distress,

To secure employment,

To reduce the hours of daily labor,

To secure adequate pay for our work,

To seek a higher and higher standard of living,

To seek security for the individual,

And by legal and proper means to elevate the moral, intellectual and social conditions of our members, their families and dependents, in the interest of a higher standard of citizenship.

Source: IBEW Constitution and Rules for Local Unions and Councils Under Its Jurisdiction

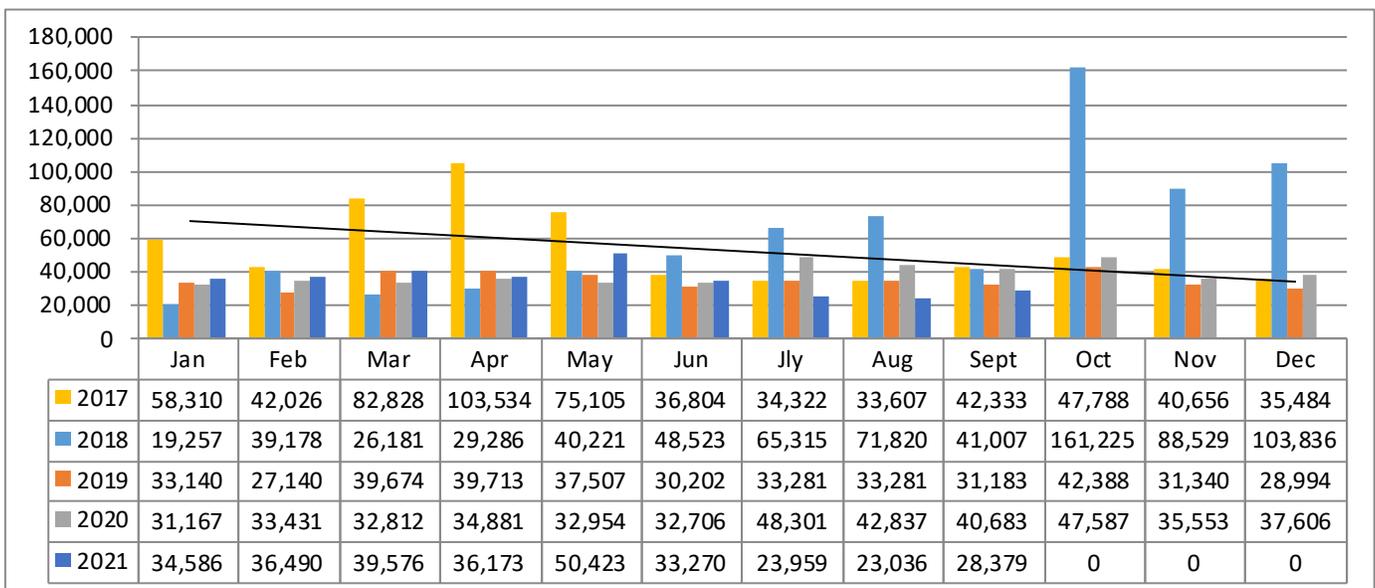
NEFP—401k

The 401k Plan will go into effect on December 27th, 2021! This plan offers you the opportunity to supplement your retirement savings. Some of the benefits in participating include:

- Pay less in Federal Taxes.
- Contributions will grow tax-deferred until you withdraw.
- Compounding—earn interest on both the money you contribute and any interest you earn.

The specifics of how to enroll will be sent to you in the upcoming weeks—Keep an eye out!

Monthly Hours Report



Happy November Birthdays!

Alberto Aguilera
Miguel Bustos
Manuel Cadena
Hector Camacho
Adam Cortes
John Craft
Sabyn Cupples
Kermit Gayman
Jose Gomez
Arturo Gonzales
Lance Grant

Anthony Kalstrom
Andres Laureano
Joseph Lockshaw
Francisco Lopez
Raul Marin
Jaime Martinez
Aaron Monroy
William Nunes
Joseph Olaeta
Daniel Ortigoza

Richard Phillips
Jose de Jesus
Renteria
Matthew Rivas
Oscar Rivero
Charles Ruiz
Brian Sansom
James Stanchfield
Matt Steinmetz
Ronald Swim
Alan Todd
Rebecca Trescott



This Month's Local 234 Winners!

November 2021

Voluntary PAC (Political Action Committee): Andrew Hartmann Won \$5.00

Apprentice Give-Away: \$23.40—Marco Arredondo

Give-Away Winners:

Marco Arredondo won a Niagara Falls t-shirt
Robert Meloney won an IBEW trailer hitch

Quote of the Month

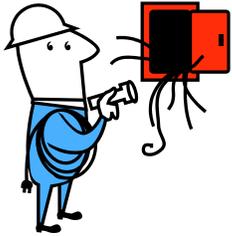
“Don't wait until the fourth Thursday in November, to sit with family and friends to give thanks.

Make every day a day of Thanksgiving!”

~Charmaine J. Forde

General membership meetings are the second Wednesday of each month. The next general membership meeting has been scheduled on Wednesday, November 10th at 6:30 PM

Face masks are required for entry into building



November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 NFRA 70E @ 8:00AM
7 Daylight Savings Ends	8	9	10 General Body Meeting @ 6:30PM	11 HOLIDAY Veteran's Day	12	13
14	15	16 JATC Meeting @ 4:00PM Significant Changes @ 5:30 PM	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 E-Board Meeting @ 6:00PM	25 HOLIDAY Thanksgiving	26 HOLIDAY	27
28	29	30				



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

