



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 234

# IBEW Local 234 Newsletter

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

February 2022

## 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 21 on Book 1, 79 on Book 2, 10 on Book 3, and 6 on Book 4. There is 0 on Book 1 for Sound & Comm, 0 on Book 2, 0 on Book 3, and 0 on Book 4. There is 2 on CW Book 1 and 2 on CW Book 2. There is 1 Inside apprentices on the out-of-work list.

In 2021 the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved a historic decision ordering utilities to procure 11,500 megawatts (MW) of new electricity resources to come online between the

years of 2023 and 2026. This decision is a foundational investment in meeting the state's goal of 100 percent clean electricity by 2045. As a result Pacific Gas & Electric has proposed nine new battery storage projects amounting to 1,600 MW to help shore up the state's electrical grid. One of these projects include a 350 MW/1,400 MWh energy storage facility at the Moss Landing power plant. This project could eventually reach 1500 MW with additional phases being planned. This ensures that Local 234 will continue to play an important part in helping California reach its renewable energy goals. Our members have proven themselves already by installing over 450 MW of battery storage and look forward to continuing to use our expertise and knowledge to build any future projects right the first time, on schedule and under budget.

Article 15 Section 15 of the IBEW Constitution states that "each Local Union shall have a safety and health committee which shall: investigate and report serious accidents and fatalities; cooperate with the International Office on safety and health matters; promote safety and health; and cooperate with safety and health organizations as determined by the Local Union." Our safety committee is in need of more member

involvement. Please contact me if you are interested in getting involved and helping support our efforts to make the health and safety of everyone a priority at work and home.

I would also like to put out a call to all of Local 234's Veterans. I believe starting a Veteran's Committee for our Local would help encourage more participation and produce more opportunities to promote our Local in the community. If you are interested in leading or just participating in this new committee please contact me at your earliest convenience. The International Office is interested in spotlighting one Veteran from each District to be interviewed for a video that will be shown at the 40th IBEW International Convention.

Members should be receiving a notice from the Health and Welfare Plan containing information about over the counter COVID-19 test coverage. Starting, January 15th, the Plan will cover the cost of over the counter at-home COVID-19 diagnostic test authorized by the FDA at no cost to you. Members are subject to an eight test quantity limit per covered individual per 30-day period. Coverage for these test is intended for personal use and not for employment purposes.

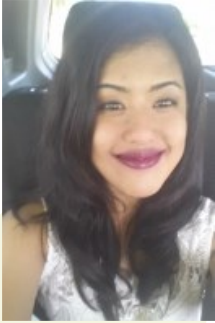
The next JATC Aptitude Test is scheduled for Saturday, February 26th with our Test Administrator Terry Tatroe. Volunteer Proctors are needed. Contact the JATC at (831) 741-9069 if you are able to volunteer for the morning sessions, afternoon sessions, or both. Three Proctors are needed for each session.

Once again it's tax season. The Local will not be mailing out the Statement of Dues and Assessments paid in 2021 in a mass mailing. We are happy to mail or email your statement to you upon request. Please feel free to contact the Hall by telephone or email if you would like to receive your statement.

Remember to celebrate Valentine's day on **Monday, February 14th**. President's Day is **Monday, February 21st** and is a Holiday for the Inside, Sound & Communications, and CECW's. Have a great three-day weekend.

Happy Valentine's Day!

## Prevention With Little Steps by Rasha Aniaq



What is meditation? A trend? A new thing that young ones do? The meaning of meditation is much deeper. It is an activity that promotes the absence of running the thoughts in your head through awareness of how the body functions through one breath. It is the calm of silence, the satisfaction of being solo, and the alignment in balance. Listening to the movement that occurs within, such as heartbeat; listening to the impact of breath and how it gently sends wind into the world. This month is a reminder to understand the impact you have in the world, no matter how small. You leave an imprint from the steps you take but it is you who chooses your path. In addition, have compassion for you by granting yourself time to close your eyes, sit still for at least three minutes, and listen to your surroundings while slowing down your breath.

Here are some videos to help:

<https://youtu.be/e71exrhEBQc>

<https://youtu.be/4yaBJVfyy00>

Cell: 831-731-0460

[rasha@ibew234.org](mailto:rasha@ibew234.org)

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On a side note, I want to remind you to find a primary care doctor and get a physical check-up. A wellness exam (physical) is 100% covered by our insurance. Be sure to also get labs to see how each organ is functioning. I can help share information on how to read your lab report and decipher what each component means. Leave the diagnostics to the doctors. I urge you to take control of your own health as it holds more value than you know.

Be well,

Nurse Rasha Wilson, MSN

Here are some educational videos to help Jumpstart the motivation to transforming to a better self:

<https://youtu.be/i1CZB8UvrwU>

<https://youtu.be/Aw16LPVnNco>

## February—Health Month

February is American Heart Month. This awareness month was established by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to educate the public about heart disease and stroke. The [American Heart Association](#) (AHA) promotes healthier lives during the month of February and resources for millions of people for a common goal: to eradicate heart disease and stroke.

*Ways to get involved:*

Participate in [National Wear Red Day](#) on **February 7** to end heart disease and stroke in women. Promote awareness **February 7-11** during [Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week](#). Contribute to the movement to end heart disease and stroke by [donating](#).

The month of February is National Cancer Prevention Month. The [American Cancer Society](#) fights to free the world from cancer and provides patients and caregivers resources on their website. This organization funds and conducts research, shares expert information, support patients, and spreads awareness about prevention.

*Ways to get involved:*

Promote awareness about cancer prevention on **February 4** for [World Cancer Day](#). [Volunteer](#) to save lives. Register for a local [Relay for Life](#). [Donate](#) to the American Cancer Society's efforts.

## Christopher Burditt Memorial Scholarship

IBEW Local 234, in partnership with the Burditt Family, is offering **three (3) \$1,000** scholarships to high school graduates – one each in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito County, who will graduate during the current school year and who meet all qualifying criteria.

To apply, a student must have at least one present or past union member, **of any affiliation**, in his or her immediate family and type an essay of approximately **500 words** on **one** of the following topics:

- What is the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and what has it done to enhance organized labor?
- Why is the organized labor movement important in the United States today?
- How has the union movement played a key role in the life and well-being of my family member who **is or was** in a union?

Essays must be typed and mailed with a completed Application Form to:

**Christopher Burditt Memorial Scholarship Essay Contest**  
**10300 Merritt Street**  
**Castroville, CA 95012**

Entries must be **received by Friday, March 25, 2022**. IBEW Local 234 will judge essays for content, clarity, and originality. Proof that application requirements are fulfilled, including graduation, will be required, as will proof that the winner enrolls in a university, college, junior college, or other institution of higher learning in the summer or fall of **2022**. No essays will be returned. IBEW Local 234 is not responsible for any entries that are not received or are damaged before being received.

The announcement and application form are available for download on our website **www.ibew234.org**. Please share with any interested students.

## UnionPlus Benefits

Saving money is ridiculously easy. Your union affiliation gives you discounts on things you do every day.

Don't forget to check out the UnionPlus website for amazing discounts, advice, and benefits!

[www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org)



## February Holiday

Just a reminder that Monday, February 21st is a holiday for Inside, Sound & Communications, and CE/CW's in honor of President's Day.

Enjoy the three day weekend!



## 2021 Tax Statements

The Union Hall will not be mailing out the Statement of Dues and Assessments paid in 2021 in a mass mailing. We are happy to mail or e-mail your statement to you upon request.

Please feel free to contact Local 234 at :

(831) 633-2311

or via e-mail at: [thehall@ibew234.org](mailto:thehall@ibew234.org) if you would like to receive your statement.

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# Tri-County Electrical JATC Training News

(831) 741-9069

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**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, March 12th** 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, February 15th 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.

This is a drop-in class—no need to reserve a spot

## **Congratulations on Completing Class**

Significant Changes: January 18, 2022

Steve Luis and Chad Vargas

## **Donate To The JATC When You Shop Amazon**



REMEMBER to use Amazon Smile while buying your holiday gifts this year!

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](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7114317)

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

## **Proctors Needed**

The next Aptitude Test is scheduled for **Saturday, February 26th, 2022 at 8:00 AM & 1:00 PM** and **Tuesday, Marth 1st. 2022 @ 5:00 PM**

Volunteers are needed to proctor the Aptitude Test with our Test Administrator TJ Tatroe. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Stacy at (831) 741-9069.

## 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 **February 2022** the JATC has chosen to recognize:

### 5th-year: Gilberto Espindola

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.



## National Electrical 401(k) Plan—NEFP

Saving for retirement is one of the most important things you can do to provide for your financial future!

We are so happy to see so many of you sign up for the new 401 (k) program!

Everyone should have received Welcome Packets in the mail and we highly encourage you to take part.

Make sure you hand in the elected deferred form to your Contractors.

Some key points to remember as you enroll:

- You are allowed to elect to defer \$2.00, \$5.00, or \$8.00 per hour **ONLY**. Although you may be allowed to chose other dollar amounts and/or a percentage on the contribution election page, those amounts will not be accepted.
- Selection changes may be done at dispatch and at the beginning of the January payroll period only.
- Participation is elective—you do not need to participate.

The 2022 contribution limit for elective deferrals is \$20,500 and the “catch-up” provision is \$6,500.00 for members who are 50 and over.



## Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Day

Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay is an independent locally operated and funded affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Our mission is to build decent, affordable homes and provide home ownership opportunities to qualified families who live and work in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.

Craft Electric is the electrical contractor and oversees the work and electrical volunteers.



Typical build days begin at 8:00 AM and end by about 2:00 or 3:00 PM. Volunteers should bring their own lunches.

Call the Local 234 at (831) 633-2311 if you are interested in volunteering—New volunteer days are always coming up—so keep an eye out for notices!

## Member Life Events

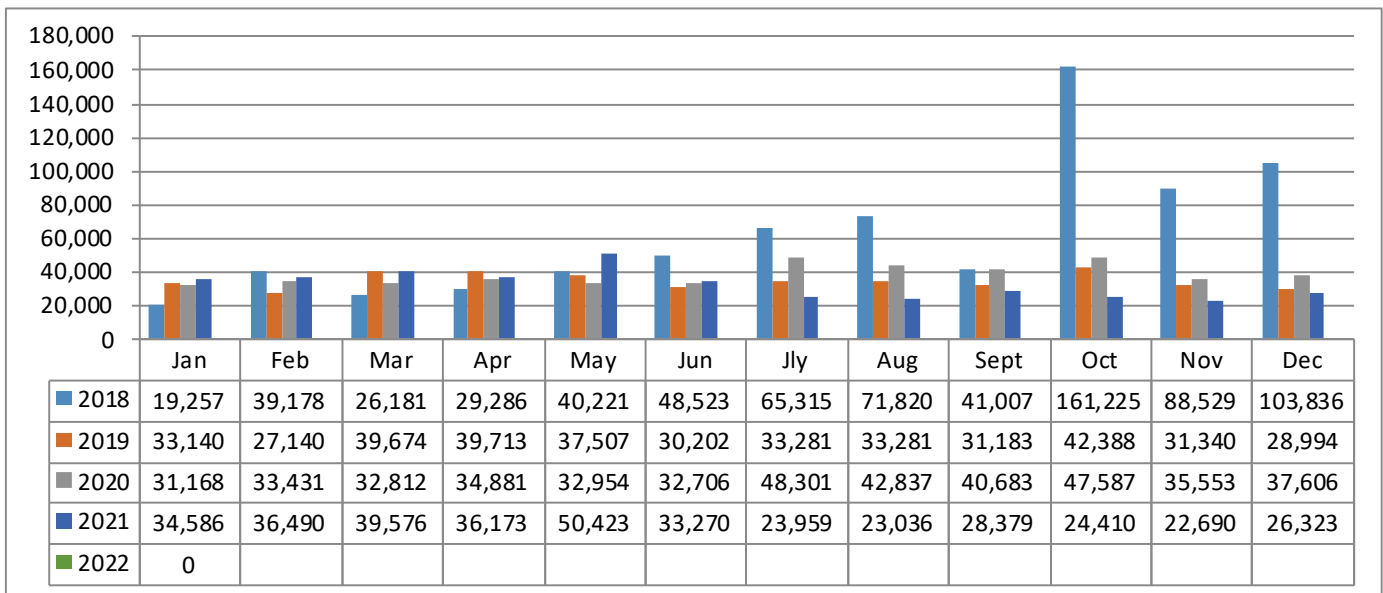
We love to share our members accomplishments! Please email or call Natasha at **831-633-2311** or **natasha@ibew234.org** with your good news. Marriages, Births, or other exciting news, so we can share it in our monthly newsletter!

### Happy Belated Birthday!

Big Happy Belated Birthday to 234 Retiree: John Dion!

Born: 1/16/1931

### Monthly Hours Report



### Happy February Birthdays!

James Brown  
Stanley Chen  
Ira Franklin  
Erik Fritz

Mohammed Garaan  
Ivan Garcia Ponce  
Richard Giovannoni  
Jonathan Goddard  
Anthony Grandelli  
BJ Heading  
Rick Keaton

Paul Laoretti  
Jorge Mendoza  
Ulises Mendoza  
Alan Minami  
William Moore  
Kirk Morrison  
Joshua Murray  
Michael Nickals  
Jared Palmer  
Richard Regier  
Steve Rios  
Paul Rivas

Gerard Rogers  
Keith Rudd  
Robert Scardina  
Erik Schappert  
Carlos Souza  
William Stadtmiller  
Theodor Teman  
Per Trondhjem  
Heber Tuazon  
Ricardo Vasquez  
Derek Webster



# This Month's Local 234 Winners!

February 2022

**Voluntary PAC (Political Action Committee): John Agra**  
 Won \$5.00 and donated it back

**Apprentice Give-Away: \$23.40—Jaime Hernandez**

**Give-Away Winners:**

Michael Gruber won an IBEW Local 24 t-shirt  
 Angel Magana won an IBEW Trailer hitch  
 Ulises Mendoza won a "free" IBEW t-shirt donated by Michael Freeman  
 Jaime Hernandez won a Local 234 Polo shirt

**Quote of the Month**

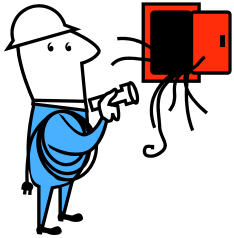
"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.

Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

General membership meetings are the second Wednesday of each month. The next general membership meeting has been scheduled on Wednesday, February 9th at 6:30 PM

Face masks are required for entry into building



# February 2022

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



# 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](http://www.ibew234.org)  
(800) 499-4239  
(831) 633-2311  
(831) 633-0570 fax  
[thehall@ibew234.org](mailto:thehall@ibew234.org)  
(831) 633-JOBS (5627)  
Job line

### Tri-County Electrical JATC

[www.tricountyjatc.org](http://www.tricountyjatc.org)  
[info@tricountyjatc.org](mailto:info@tricountyjatc.org)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

