

# Official Journal of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local 234 Castroville, CA. August 2023 Edition

## Embracing a New Chapter: Back to School, Forward in Progress

Greetings Brothers and Sisters. As August gets our families back into the familiar back-to-school preparations, it also reminds us of the importance of continual learning and growth. This spirit of learning is deeply embedded in our roots at IBEW Local 234, propelling us forward as we embark on new ventures and face challenges head-on.

Our collective achievements over the past year have been nothing short of inspiring. We navigated complexities, strengthened our Union, and made strategic moves that ensured our resilience. The approval for the purchase of our new Union Hall stands as a testament to our collective determination and vision. It represents a concrete step toward a bright and promising future for our Union.

One of the most crucial milestones in our continuous growth is the impending decoupling from the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC). This move, a significant one in our Union's trajectory, is underway and expected to be finalized in the upcoming months. Member participation will be instrumental.

The decoupling process presents an exciting opportunity. It allows the JATC to have full autonomy over our training program, thus paving the way for us to improve and create an even greater training facility. This facility will serve as a foundation for hands-on learning and skill development, crucial to shaping the next generation of competent and successful electricians.

We envision this new training center as a beacon of excellence, offering state-of-the-art resources to our apprentices. This is not just about providing education – it's about equipping our Members with the practical skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in the evolving electrical industry.

As we stand on the brink of this exciting transition, I want to reassure every member that your leadership is dedicated to navigating this change with care and intention. Our primary focus remains the same: to ensure that our Union, our Members, and our apprentices have the resources and support they need to succeed.

The spirit of unity, resilience, and commitment that defines IBEW Local 234 is a source of immense pride. As we move forward in this journey, let's continue to strengthen these bonds and work towards our shared vision of a prosperous future.

Thank you for your continued support!

In solidarity,

*Paul G*

Business Manager  
IBEW Local 234  
(831) 594-0860



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- L.U.234 Decoupling from JATC
- Nurse Anita Alvarez
- 2023-2024 JATC Instructors
- Electrical Safety

## Meet Nurse Anita!

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I introduce Nurse Anita, our newest addition to the team! Nurse Anita has officially started as our dedicated advocate, serving as an invaluable resource for all of our Members.

Nurse Anita Writes:

“Hello Members of Local 234 my name is Anita Alvarez. I am a registered nurse (RN) and a certified Public Health Nurse. I am also a certified Health Coach. I have worked, as a nurse, for many years serving the central coast communities of Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties. Throughout my career, I have worked with all ages of people, including pregnant moms, infants, teens, adults, and seniors.

What motivates me in my nursing work is the desire to help individuals and communities be and stay healthy. I currently live in Santa Cruz County. Hobbies I enjoy include hiking, backpacking, gardening, and making jewelry. I am excited to be working for IBEW 234 Health and Welfare Trust and supporting your health and wellbeing.”

As your advocate, Nurse Anita will be available to assist you with a wide range of health-related matters, from answering questions about medical benefits to providing guidance on managing your health and wellness. Her presence will undoubtedly enhance the support and care we provide to all our members.

We warmly invite each and every one of you to come and meet Nurse Anita at our upcoming August General Membership Meeting on August 9th. This will be a fantastic opportunity to get to know her, learn more about the services she offers, and discuss any health concerns or questions you may have.

See you August 9th at our General Membership Meeting!

## EXCITING JATC DECOUPLING UPDATE

I have great news to share. The Qualified Professional Asset Manager (QPAM) study is currently underway.

The QPAM study is a non-biased examination that will define the terms of the transfer of ownership of 10300 Merritt St. from IBEW Local 234 to the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC). This process represents an opportunity to strengthen our apprenticeship and pave the way for a more prosperous future for our Members.

It is crucial to emphasize that this study is based on an impartial evaluation, ensuring that the decision-making process remains transparent and fair.

Through this study, we seek to establish a solid foundation for the transfer of ownership, safeguarding the well-being of our Members and the continuity of top-notch apprenticeship training program.

This process is rooted in the pursuit of excellence and the betterment of our Union and the JATC.

As we move forward, I urge you all to stay informed and engaged in this transformative journey. We will keep you informed at every step, ensuring that you are part of the conversation and decision-making process.

Together, we have built a legacy of excellence and unity, and it is this shared strength that will propel us into a future filled with new opportunities and achievements. I am confident that with our collective dedication, we will pave the way for a prosperous and promising future for IBEW Local 234.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our Union's growth.

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*“Together, we have built a legacy of excellence and unity, and it is this shared strength that will propel us into a future filled with new opportunities and achievements.”*

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Meet Nurse Anita Alvarez

August 9th, at General Membership Meeting

(831)741-8677

Anita@ibew234.org

Monday—Friday 12:00—5:00pm



## INTRODUCING OUR DYNAMIC JATC INSTRUCTOR LINEUP!

As we embark on a new Apprenticeship School year, I am thrilled to introduce two exceptional individuals who will be joining our esteemed JATC instructor lineup. They bring with them a wealth of knowledge, passion, and dedication to shaping the future of our apprentices and the growth of our Union.

Before we welcome our new instructors, it is imperative to acknowledge and appreciate the invaluable contributions of our previous and returning teachers. Their unwavering dedication and profound expertise have been instrumental in our Union's growth and development. We extend our deepest gratitude to Derek Webster, Sean Kent, Carlos Prado, Ryan Porter and Mark Dybdal, each of whom brought years of knowledge, unique characteristics, and perspectives that have truly elevated our Organizations.

To those who will be stepping away from their current roles, thank you for the legacy you leave behind and the foundation you have built for the generations to come. Your efforts will not be forgotten as we move forward.

I'm pleased to introduce **Andres Laureano** to the fourth year instructor role. Andres brings a level of expertise and enthusiasm that is truly unmatched. His commitment to empowering our apprentices with the latest industry insights is commendable.



I am equally excited to introduce our new fifth year instructor, **Manuel Valdez**. With extensive experience in the electrical field and a deep understanding of the business side, Manuel brings a unique perspective to our apprentices. Manuel will also be attending the National Training Institute (NTI) in the first week of August. This training will prepare him to face the exciting adventures and challenges that lie ahead.

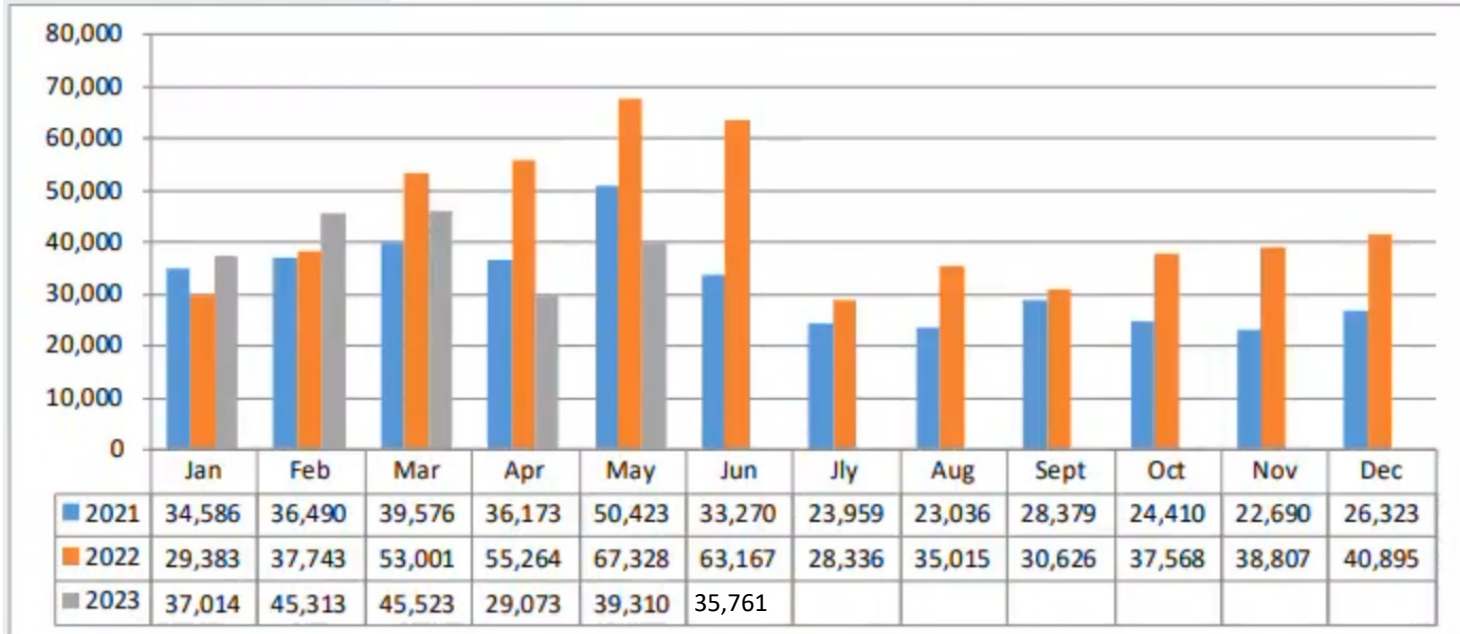
Both Andres and Manuel exemplify the true spirit of our Union—giving back and supporting one another. They have embraced the challenge of nurturing the next generation of skilled electricians, and we are grateful for their commitment to our Local.

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Andres Laureano and Manuel Valdez and thanking them wholeheartedly for all they have done, and all they are about to do,

## Happy August Birthdays!

Israel Andrade  
Marco A. Arredondo Jr.  
Mario Arreguin  
Joshua M. Benavidez  
Tighe P. Callahan  
Javierto E. Castillo Jr.  
Gilberto Contreras  
Bryan W. Daniel  
Daniel M. Day  
Lloyd E. Eads  
Gerardo A. Espinoza  
Mateo K. Flota  
Jose I. Gallegos Ramos  
Jasper J. Gonzalez  
Fernando Gonzalez Fernandez  
Hector M. Haro  
Joshua M. Haupt  
Richard B. Hodges  
Travis G. Karrie  
Joseph P. Lehnert  
Angel Lopez-Magana  
Igor S. Malyghin  
Zachary J. Moore  
Jesus Morales  
Epigmenio P. Perez  
Albert J. Randall  
Gabriel V. Regalado  
Ricky Rodriguez  
David E. Salinas  
Gilbert Sanchez  
James J. Taylor  
Agustin Torres  
Alex P. Vargas  
Mario Vera  
Tyler J. Western  
Jeremy Westrum  
Ralph G. Yniguez

## MONTHLY HOURS REPORT



## MONTHLY CALENDAR: AUGUST 2023

AUGUST 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 General Body Meeting	10	11	12
13	14	15 JATC Meeting	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Executive Board Meeting	24 Western State Apprentice Challenge	25 Western State Apprentice Challenge	26 Western State Apprentice Challenge
27 End of Pay Period	28	29	30	31		



# Tri-County Electrical JATC Training News

## UPCOMING CLASSES

### Foreman Development

#### Series:

Instructor: **Ryan Porter**

Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 8am-3pm

covering Modules 5 & 6

Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> from 8am-3pm

covering Modules 7 & 8

Please note that class size is limited to 10 students per class. Sign-up is required – NO DROP INS. Contact Damaris in the JATC office to get your name on the list at (831) 633-3063.

### CPR / First Aid with Blood-Borne Pathogens:

This class is scheduled for **Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 8am – 1pm.**

Instructor **Merralinda Goddard** will be teaching on the basics of First Aid and CPR. Contact Damaris in the JATC office to sign up at (831) 633-3063.

Please note that class size is limited and sign-up is required. This is NOT a drop-in class. (Also note that if you reserve a space and do not show up for class, you will be responsible for paying for the class.)



## Proctors Needed:

We will need proctors for the next aptitude testing sessions. Testing is scheduled for Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> AND Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. There are 2 sessions each day – morning and afternoon. If you're able to volunteer for one session, both, or several – please contact Damaris in the JATC office at (831) 633-3063.

(Proctors assist the test administrator with things like checking in applicants, passing out testing materials, and monitoring testing while in session.)

## Class completions:

### FLUKE POWER QUALITY APPLICATIONS 07-11-2023

Jose Gomez, Enrique Ramos, Carlos Prado, Adrian Silva, David Martinez, Zach Moore, Juan Torres, David Salinas, AJ Todd, Mike Brown

### Foreman Development Series 07-08-2023

Mohammed Garaan, John Green, Angel Lopez-Magana, Armando Munoz, and David Salinas

### Foreman Development Series 07-22-2023

Alberto Aguilera, Noe Arana, Mohammed Garaan, John Green, Angel Lopez Magana, Armando Munoz, Oscar Rivero, David Salinas, and Juan Torres

## IBEW OBJECTIVES

The objects of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers are:

- ◆ 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 cultivate feelings of friendship among those of our industry
- ◆ To settle all disputes between employer and employees by arbitration ( if possible )
- ◆ To assist each other in sickness and 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
- ◆ 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.

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)



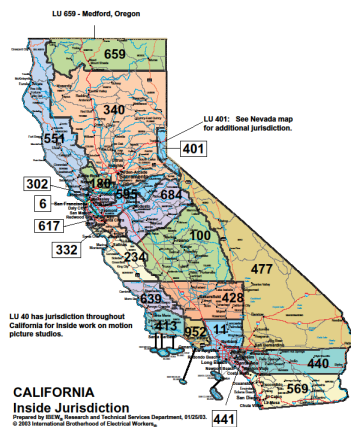
## THE IMPORTANCE OF ELECTRICAL SAFETY:

We owe it to our families that we go home at the end of each work day healthy and uninjured. Lets remind ourselves of the core principles that govern our profession, with safety being paramount among them. As electricians, we understand more than anyone the power we harness and the potential risks it holds if not handled with the utmost respect and caution.

Workplace safety isn't merely about following protocols—it's about cultivating a mindset where safety is integral to everything we do. Every wire we connect, every conduit we install, and every circuit we complete carries the responsibility of ensuring the well-being of ourselves and those around us.

Local 234 members are champions of a proactive approach to safety. This means not just responding to incidents, but we take the necessary steps to prevent them. Regular safety training sessions, workshops, and tool-box talks are part of our commitment to fostering a strong safety culture within our Local. It's also about looking out for one another. If you can assist or share practices with a brother or sister, please do. Safety is a collective effort, and we all have a role to play in creating a safer workplace.

Let's continue to ensure a safer, healthier environment for all.



### In the Office

**Paul Gutierrez**  
 Business Manager/  
 Financial Secretary

**Jorge Suarez**  
 CAO/Assistant  
 Business Manager

**Mike Brown**  
 Business  
 Development/  
 Organizer

**Natasha Marsiguerra**  
 Office Administrator

### Local 234 Officers

**Andy Hartmann**  
 President

**Jonathon Marquez**  
 Vice President

**Enrique Ramos**  
 Treasurer

**Stephen Slovacek**  
 Recording Secretary

**John Agra**  
**Nick Jackson**  
**Nicholas Prelgovisk**  
**Jorge Suarez**  
 Executive Board



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 ORGANIZATION  
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