

# Official Journal of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local 234 Castroville, CA. December 2023 Edition

## Embracing the Future: A Year-End Reflection

Dear Members,

The Christmas lights are twinkling, and the promise of a new year looms large. As the holiday season approaches and we prepare to bid farewell to another year, I can't help but reflect on the remarkable journey we've embarked upon as a Union.

The year 2023 has been a remarkable one for IBEW Local 234, filled with pivotal moments that have set the stage for our future. Our move to 747 El Camino Real has been a monumental undertaking, and I'm incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together. This transition marks a new chapter in our Union's history, and it's a testament to the dedication and resilience of our members.

I often find myself in awe of the progress we've made and the challenges we've overcome. It's a testament to the unwavering spirit of solidarity that defines our Union. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your hard work, commitment, and support throughout this year. It's because of your dedication that we continue to thrive and grow.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I want to emphasize that the future is indeed upon us. The groundbreaking achievements we've celebrated in 2023 are just the beginning. We stand on the cusp of exciting opportunities and new horizons. Our commitment to serving our members, expanding our influence, and securing a brighter future for all remains as steadfast as ever.

In closing, let's remember that the holiday season is a time for reflection, gratitude, and joy. It's a moment to cherish our loved ones, appreciate our blessings, and set our sights on the journey ahead. Together, we'll continue to build a stronger, more prosperous future for IBEW Local 234.

Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful holiday season, and a Happy New Year filled with promise and success.

In solidarity,

Business Manager

IBEW Local 234

(831) 594-0860



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- BM Report
- 747 Nears Completion
- Become an Electrical Contractor Course open to all!
- Flow Charts to getting quick answers to your questions

## THE HEALTH CORNER

Dear Members and Families,  
Please consider the health and safety tips below to help ensure, you have a happy, healthy, and safe holiday Season:

### Prevent the spread of

**germs.** It's flu season. Wash your hands with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds. Get vaccinated for flu, RSV, and Covid.

**Practice fire safety.** Most home fires occur during the winter months. Don't leave fireplaces, space heaters, food cooking on stoves, candles, or Christmas tree lights, unattended. Have a fire extinguisher and emergency plan in place.

**Eat healthily.** Limit your portion sizes and foods high in fat, salt, and sugar. Increase fruit, veggie, and lean meats, and fish intake.

**Don't drink and drive or let others drink and drive.** Whenever anyone drives drunk, they put everyone on the road in danger.

**Be smoke-free.** Smokers have greater health risks because of their tobacco use, but nonsmokers (including babies and children) are at greater health risk when exposed to tobacco smoke.

**Stay active.** Be active for at least 2-3 hours a week and help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day.

Wishing you a holiday season filled with joy, good health, and wellbeing. Please feel free to reach out to me for health-related support.

Anita Alvarez, RN, PHN  
Nurse Health Advocate

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

Anita Alvarez, Nurse Health Advocate

## 747 El Camino Real Update:

### A New Beginning

Mark your calendars, because it's official! Starting January 2, 2024, IBEW Local 234 will proudly call 747 El Camino Real in Salinas our new home.

This monumental move represents a new chapter in our journey, and it's all thanks to the unwavering faith and confidence of our valued membership. Your support has propelled us to this point, and together, we'll witness the fruits of our collective labor.



Our new location at 747 El Camino Real isn't just an address change; it's a symbol of growth, progress, and the boundless potential that lies ahead. It's where we'll continue to strengthen our Union, provide unparalleled support to our members, and make positive strides in the electrical industry.

As we step into this exciting new phase, let's remember that every great journey starts with a single step. This move marks our starting point towards a future filled with opportunities, successes, and shared achievements. The possibilities are limitless, and we're ready to seize them.

Your dedication and commitment are what make IBEW Local 234 exceptional, and together, we'll reach new heights.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and here's to a bright future at 747 El Camino Real!



## **SVMH & Anthem Blue Cross Update:**

We have some excellent news to share with you. After months of negotiations and uncertainty, we are thrilled to inform you that Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare (SVMH) and Anthem Blue Cross have reached an agreement. This means that you can continue to count on comprehensive healthcare coverage through our plan.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this process. We are here to support you in all your healthcare needs.

## **Master Electrical Contracting: Enroll Today!**

Get ready for an incredible opportunity – our Electrical Contractor Course is coming, and you won't want to miss it!

Course Dates: January 22-26 Location: IBEW Local 234 Union Hall

This course is your ticket to unlocking a world of possibilities in electrical contracting. Led by the experienced and renowned Matt Kolbinsky, you'll gain essential skills and knowledge to thrive in this dynamic industry.

It's not just for our Local members; participants from other IBEW locals will be joining us too. This means you'll network with professionals from across the industry, creating connections that can propel your career.

Seats are limited and filling up fast. If you're eager to take your career to new heights and explore the world of entrepreneurship, this is your chance.

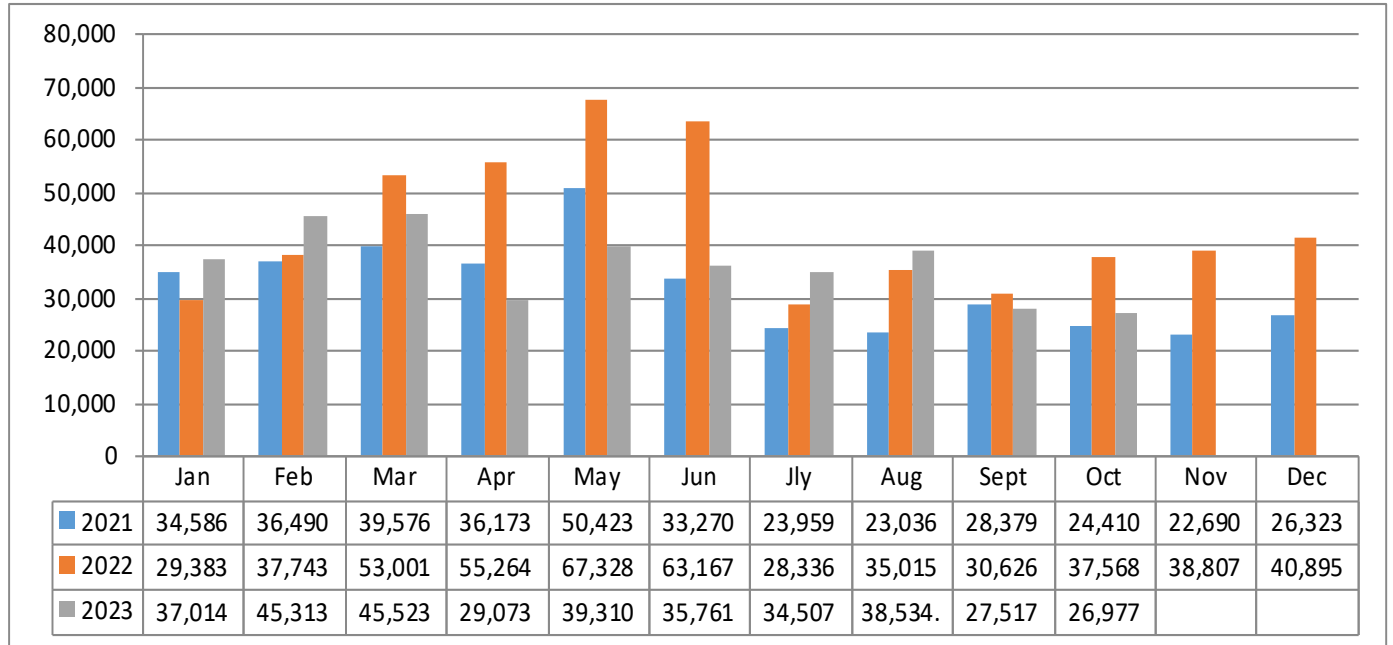
Start the new year with a bang – equip yourself with the skills to excel in electrical contracting! Secure your spot by calling Rosie at 831-633-2311.

- ▶ **Benefits of being a UNION contractor**
- ▶ **Building a business plan for success**
- ▶ **Determining start-up costs**
- ▶ **Estimating software**
- ▶ **Solar Design Software**
- ▶ **Basic electrical & solar estimating**
- ▶ **New technology opportunities - ev charging**
- ▶ **Introduction to Solar/Energy Storage**
- ▶ **Energy Audits/Lighting Retrofits**
- ▶ **Utilizing Grants, Rebates & Tax Credits**
- ▶ **Bonding & Insurance costs & requirements**
- ▶ **Payroll/Collections**
- ▶ **Corporate Structure/Mechanics Liens**
- ▶ **Accounting/record-keeping**
- ▶ **Contractor Licensing**
- ▶ **Writing business contracts**
- ▶ **Invoicing/Change Orders**
- ▶ **Networking/Promoting your business**
- ▶ **Servicing your customers**
- ▶ **Maximizing your profitability**

## **Happy December Birthdays!**

Adali P. Gonzalez  
Albert L. Valdez  
Alex D. Clayton  
Amauri I. Arista  
Amber D. Diaz-Garcia  
Anthony A. Moag  
Apolinar L. Moreno, Jr.  
Arturo Garcia  
Ashley N. Gibson  
Chad L. Vargas  
Charles Hughes  
Charles Schlesinger  
Craig H. Geis, Jr.  
Diego A. Juarez  
Gabriel R. Torres  
Gerardo I. Zambrano  
Iban A. Mercado  
James R. King  
Joe Goulsby, III  
Joel J. Torres  
Joel R. Abundis  
John W. Barber  
John Roka  
Jose M. Castaneda-Garcia, Jr.  
Justin D. Soto  
Kevin M. Page  
Luis Lopez  
Marshall R. Carle  
Miguel Huerta Ponce  
Nicholas D. Jackson  
Nick F. Luczak  
Paul Gutierrez  
Randyn S. Trybom  
Ricardo Ramirez Ruiz  
Robert E. Sanchez  
Roberto Alanis-Aguilar  
Ron Keaton, Jr.  
Ryan J. Ochinerio  
Terry J. Tatroe  
Tyrelle L. Antwine  
Tyson J. Towles  
Victor Lepe  
Wallace J. Barnes, Jr.  
Zachary D. Warner

## Monthly Hours Report



## Monthly Calendar: December 2023

<div> <div>&lt;</div> <div>DECEMBER 2023</div> <div>&gt;</div> </div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Interviews
3	4 Apprenticeship Classes (1st, 4th Years)	5 Apprenticeship Classes (2nd, 3rd, 5th Years)	6 Apprenticeship Classes (1st, 4th Years)	7 Apprenticeship Classes (2nd, 3rd, 5th Years)	8	9
10	11 Carlton's - Fire Extinguisher Inspection  Apprenticeship Classes (1st, 4th Years)	12 Apprenticeship Classes (2nd, 3rd, 5th Years)	13 Apprenticeship Classes (1st, 4th Years)  General Body Meeting	14 Apprenticeship Classes (2nd, 3rd, 5th Years)	15	16
17	18 Apprenticeship Classes (1st, 4th Years)	19 JATC Meeting  Apprenticeship Classes (2nd, 3rd, 5th Years)	20 Apprenticeship Classes (1st, 4th Years)	21 Application Deadline  Apprenticeship Classes (2nd, 3rd, 5th Years)	22 HOLIDAY- Christmas Eve Observed	23
24 Christmas Eve  End of Pay Period  HOLIDAY- Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day  HOLIDAY-Christmas Day	26	27 Executive Board Meeting	28	29 HOLIDAY- New Year's Eve Observed	30
31 HOLIDAY-New Year's Eve  New Year's Eve						





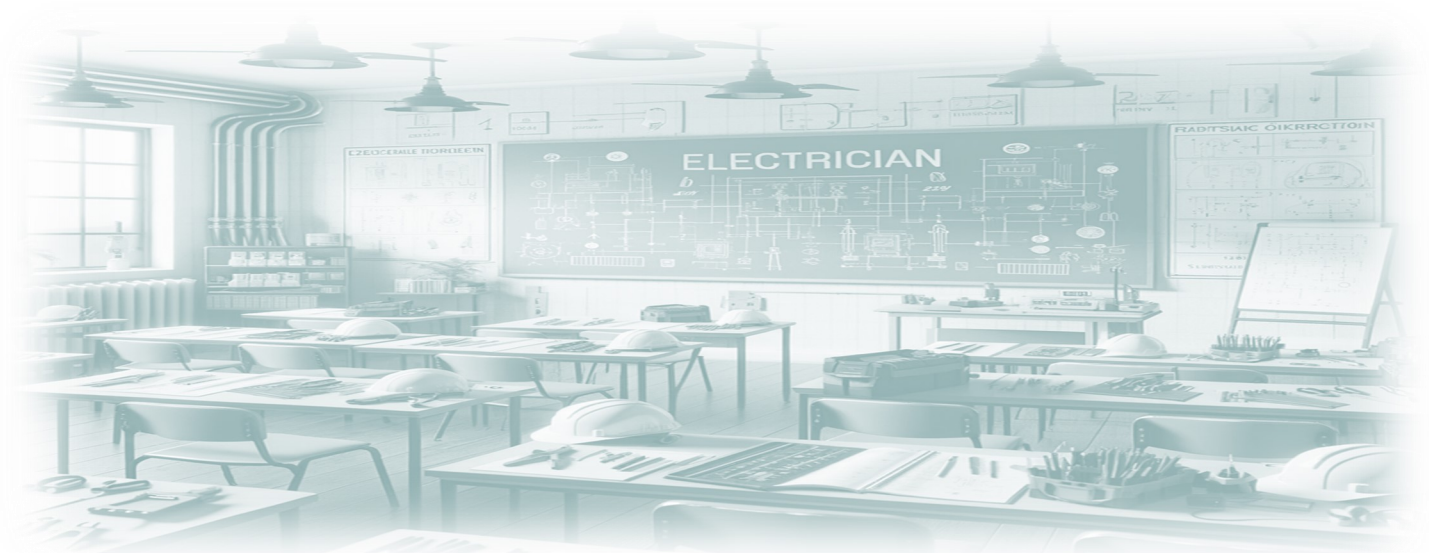
### **Navigating Your Resources...Introducing Navigational Flow Charts**

We understand that clear communication is essential for our Union to thrive, and that's why we're excited to introduce Organizational Flow Charts.

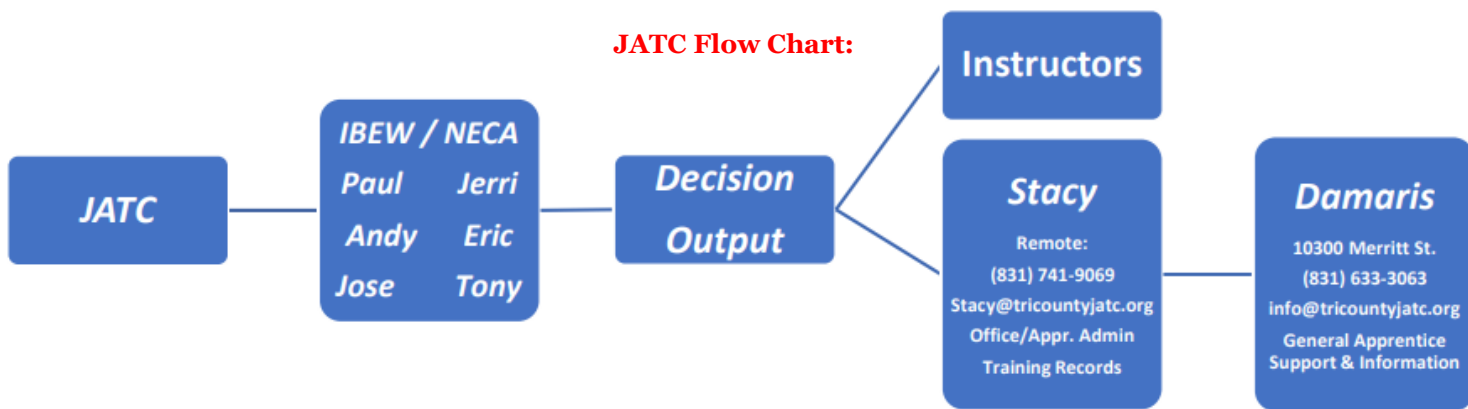
In the upcoming pages, you'll find these invaluable resources, designed to clarify the flow of work and responsibilities within our organization. We've created separate charts for the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC), and the Health and Welfare team. Each chart provides a visual representation of how information and tasks flow within these key departments.

Why are these charts so important? Because they will be your go-to resource for connecting with the right people and accessing the information you need swiftly. Whether you have questions about membership training, healthcare, benefits, or any other aspect of our Union, these charts will guide you to the appropriate contact point, making your experience with IBEW Local 234 even smoother.

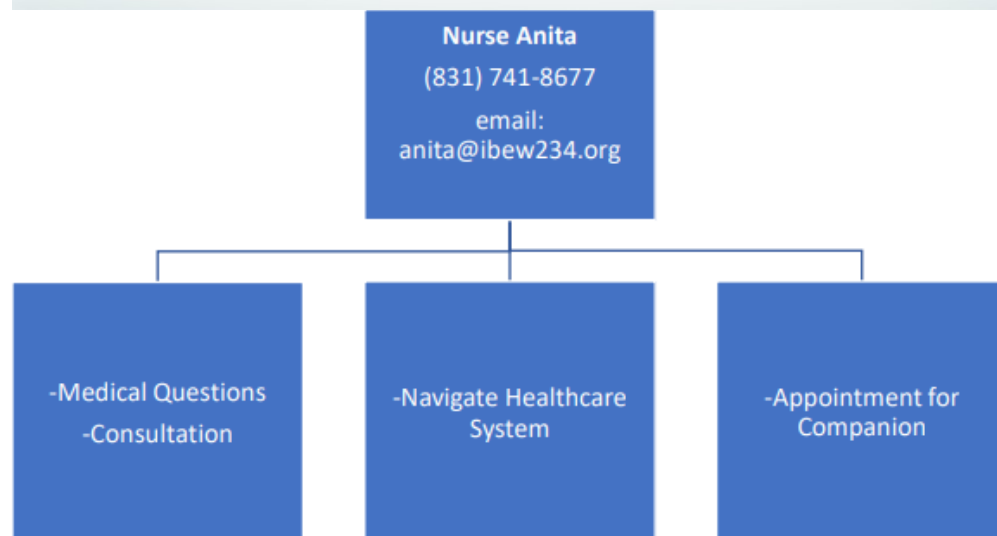
We encourage all members to take a moment to familiarize themselves with these Organizational Flow Charts. They will empower you to navigate our organization with confidence and efficiency.



### JATC Flow Chart:

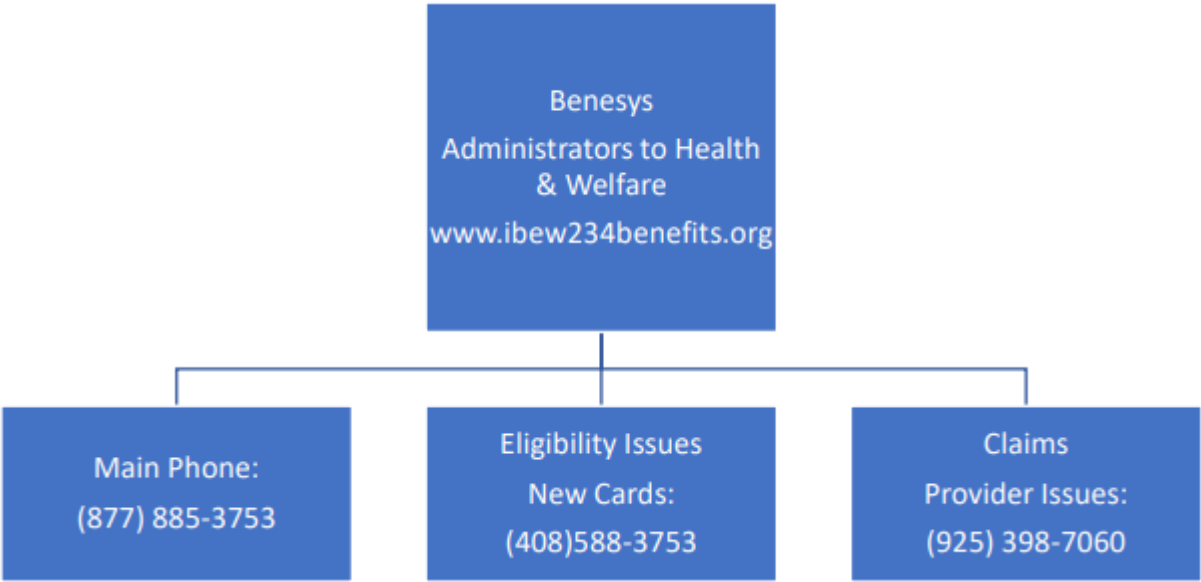


### Health & Welfare Nurse Advocate Flow Chart:

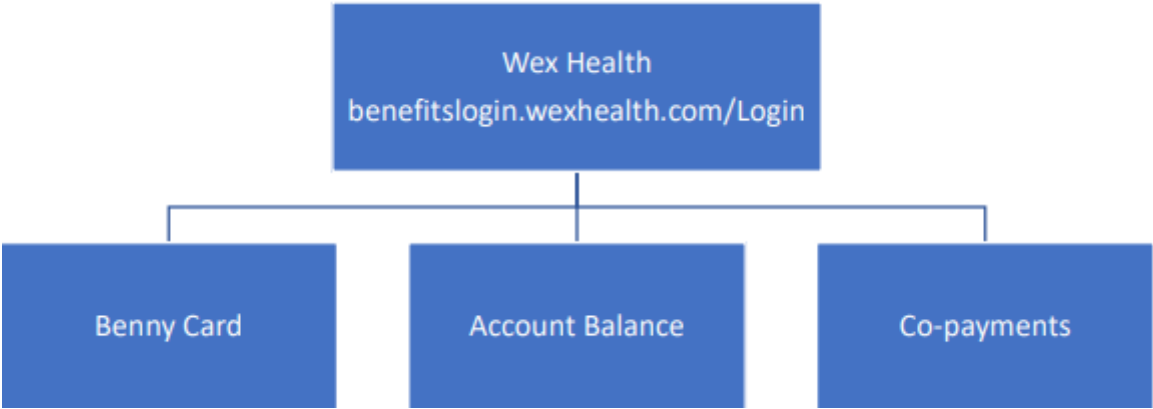




**Health & Welfare Provider Flow Chart:**



**Health & Welfare Benny Card Flow Chart:**



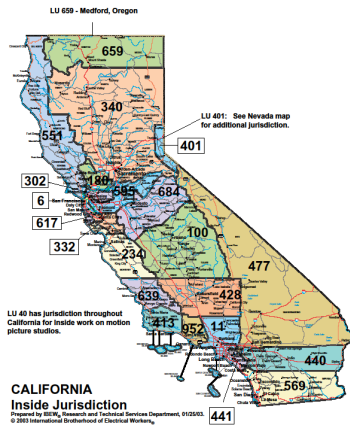
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Tri-County Electrical JATC  
www.tricountyjatc.org  
info@tricountyjatc.org

### 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.



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

IBEW LOCAL 234  
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CASTROVILLE, CA  
PERMIT NO. 410

### In the Office

**Paul Gutierrez**  
Business Manager/  
Financial Secretary

**Jorge Suarez**  
CAO/Assistant  
Business Manager

**Coming Soon!**  
Business  
Development/  
Organizer

**Rosie Bauers**  
Office Administrator

### Local 234 Officers

**Andy Hartmann**  
President

**Jonathon Marquez**  
Vice President

**Enrique Ramos**  
Treasurer

**Stephen Slovacek**  
Recording Secretary

**Jeff Beers**  
**Nick Jackson**  
**Nicholas Prelgovisk**  
**Jorge Suarez**  
Executive Board