

# Official Journal of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local 234 Salinas, CA. May, 2024 Edition



## Springing Forward: Embracing Success and Growth

Dear Members,

As we welcome the vibrant month of May, it is with great pride and optimism that I reflect on the tremendous achievements we have accomplished together as a Union. The past months have been filled with significant milestones, from productive contractor discussions, political alignments, to the successful conclusion of our negotiations. With each success, we have reaffirmed our commitment to advancing the interests of our members and strengthening our Union.

The recent progress we have made in securing Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) is a testament to the power of collaboration and unity within our ranks. These agreements not only ensure fair wages and working conditions for our members but also pave the way for sustainable growth and prosperity in our industry. By coming together to negotiate mutually beneficial terms, we have demonstrated our collective strength and solidarity.

As we look ahead to the summer months and beyond, I am filled with a sense of excitement and anticipation for the opportunities that lie ahead. With negotiations successfully concluded and a solid foundation in place, we are poised to embrace the future with confidence and determination.

Together, we have shown that by standing united, we can overcome any challenge and achieve remarkable success.

As we continue on this journey of growth and progress, let us remain steadfast in our pursuit of excellence and unwavering in our dedication to serving the needs of our members. Together, we will continue to build a brighter future for all.

In Solidarity,

*Paul G*

Business Manager

IBEW Local 234

(831) 594-0860



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- BM Report
- L.U. 234 Government Affairs: The Political Scene
- Ratified: New Wages and Contractual Changes
- Robert Rivas visit to 747

## The Political Scene

The Primary Election is over and there is a break in the action as far as Election time itself, but the campaigns rage on. We will be moving into summer in the next couple of months and there will be more heating up than the temperature.

We did fairly well in the Primary but lost all the Santa Cruz City seats we endorsed as the Business community put on a strong effort to protect their interests. In order to establish a better political base we will look at starting a grass roots organization with Santa Cruz residents to strengthen our efforts there.

The most disappointing of the races occurred in San Benito County where incumbent Bea Gonzalez, who we supported, lost 1161 to 875. The most powerful seat in County government and all the winner had to get was 1161 votes. This is unheard of, but it happened, and we need to come up with a strategy in that County which will produce better results.

The good news is we did very well in the National and State races as Jimmy Panetta and Zoe Lofgren will move on in their Congressional races, John Laird is moving on in the State Senate race, and Dawn Addis, Gail Pellerin, and Robert Rivas are virtual shoe-ins in their State Assembly races.

We also did well in the Supervisor races in both Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties. Luis Alejo and Wendy Root- Askew easily won and we welcome Kate Daniels as our new 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor. In Santa Cruz County we lost the 1<sup>st</sup> district race as the incumbent Manu Koenig beat out Lani Faulkner who we supported. But Monica Martinez almost won and will be in a runoff in the 6<sup>th</sup> District along with two candidates we supported in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District race, Kristen Brown and Kim De Serpa.

Within the jurisdiction of Local 234 we have over 24 City and County governments, around 40 School Districts, and numerous Special Districts and other agencies which all have the power to decide on Capital Projects which we may work on. This does not include the Federal and State agencies in our area. The point here is, we not only need to maintain a presence within our area but be a force to deal with and cooperate with for the betterment of our communities and area.

One day, we shall look like this as we exhibit our strength and commitment to making lives better for working people. Let's all work together toward building that strength.

## THE HEALTH CORNER

### IMPORTANCE OF A HEALTHY MOUTH

Good dental hygiene is important for your overall health. When teeth and gums are healthy, the bloodstream is protected from the bacteria and germs that hang out in our mouths. However, dental problems like gum disease and tooth decay can make it easy for bacteria to enter your bloodstream contributing to many health conditions such as: heart disease, pneumonia, Alzheimer's, periodontal disease (destroys jaw bone and can cause loss of teeth), diabetes, high risk pregnancy/premature birth, sleep apnea, arthritis, and cancer, to name a few.

#### To protect your oral health, take care of your mouth every day:

See a dentist/dental hygienist twice a year for checkups and cleaning (member benefit).

Brush your teeth at least twice a day. Using electric toothbrushes has shown to be beneficial.

Floss daily 2x/day if possible. Food particles can lodge between your teeth and cause bacteria to buildup.

Replace your toothbrush every 3 to 4 months. Do it sooner if bristles are worn or flare out.

Eat a healthy diet and limit sugary food and drink, and don't use tobacco.

Contact your dentist if you have any dental problems, pain, cold/hot sensitivities to food/drinks.

The Health and Welfare Trust has a dental plan for members through Delta Dental.

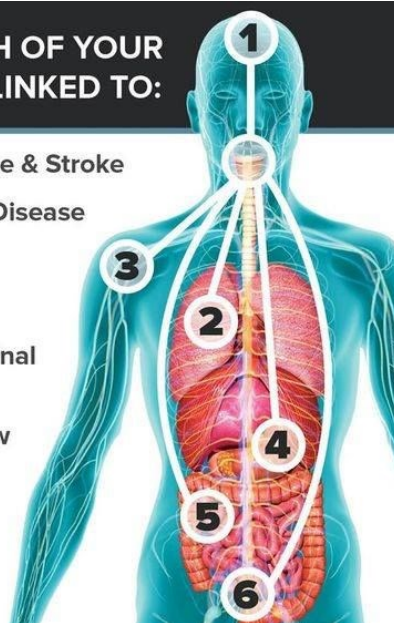
To find a provider call: 1-800-765-6003

If you need assistance, please reach out to me.

Anita Alvarez, RN, PHN  
Nurse Health Advocate for  
IBEW234  
831-741-8677

### THE HEALTH OF YOUR MOUTH IS LINKED TO:

- 1 Heart Disease & Stroke
- 2 Respiratory Disease
- 3 Arthritis
- 4 Diabetes
- 5 Gastrointestinal Disease
- 6 Pre-Term Low Birth Weight Babies



## **Ratified: New Wage Increases and Contractual Changes**

We're thrilled to announce the ratification of our successful negotiations at our recent Union meeting. This achievement marks a significant milestone for our members and reaffirms our commitment to their well-being and prosperity. With determination and dedicated leadership from myself and Jorge Suarez, along with the opportunity to collaborate with our NECA counterparts, we've reached favorable terms that reflect our shared values and priorities. As always, thank you for your unwavering support and participation in shaping the future of our Union. Together, we will continue to advocate for the best interests of our members and build a stronger, more prosperous community.

The following is a summary of the key wage increases and contractual changes that have been ratified:

### **Article I, Section 1.01**

– Three year agreement beginning June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2027.

### **Article III, Section 3.04 - Wages**

-Pay increase negotiated:

\$4.65	\$4.65	\$4.70
12-2024	12-2025	12-2026

### **Article III, Section 3.06 – Pay Day**

-Add to second paragraph, “if the employee fails to provide a correct timecard, the employer will process the pay to the best of their ability and correction is required by the employee as quickly as possible.”

### **Article III, Section 3.08 – General Provisions (d)**

-Eliminate Overtime Preference Language.

### **Article III, Show up Pay (c)**

-Change language to eliminate show up pay for any applicant for employment.

### **Article III, Section 3.26 (c)**

-Modify language to read “On all energized circuits carrying four hundred and forty (440 volts) or over, as a safety measure, two (2) or more properly trained individuals must work together, one (1) standing by, both wearing PPE.

### **Article III, Section 3.28 – Tunnel Work**

-Clarify language for heading and benching for the beginning of work in tunnels to read as follows:

“In the context of tunnels, the head isn't a physical part of the structure its self, but rather refers to the leading excavation phase. This is the area where the tunnel boring machine (TBM) or construction crew is actively digging and removing earth or rock.”

### **Article V, Section 5.12 – Apprentice Ratio**

-Each job site shall be allowed a ratio of two (2) apprentices for every one (1) Journeyman wireman.

### **Article III, Section 3.19 Tool list**

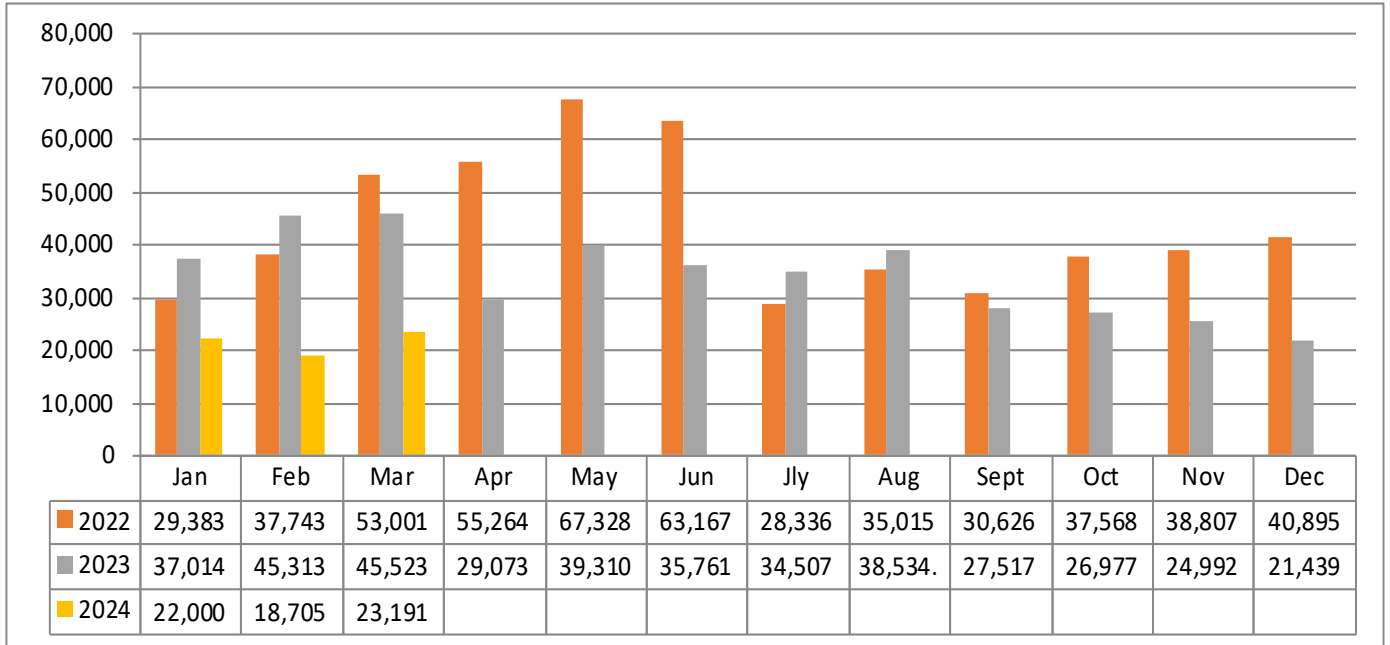
-Reduction of Required Tools: The following will be removed from the tool list:

Awl, 6 foot ruler, plumb bob, hack saw frame and tin snips. Cost of replacing hand tools will be adjusted from \$1,145.00 to \$1,060.00

## **Happy May Birthdays!**

Jose E Amezcua  
Justin A Anderson  
Trinidad Avila  
Isaac G Azua, Sr  
Salvador Barajas  
Clint Byrum  
Laurie Clark  
Adam Cullers  
Michael Delgado  
David J Espinoza  
Michael M Freeman  
Jose R Garcia, Jr  
Kasey J Jeska  
Beau J Kelly  
Tyler Kendall  
Ronald D Lance  
Alex Lara  
Jason O Lawrence  
Christian Lopez  
Leo F Lotz  
Felix A Mabelo  
Jonathon Marquez, Jr  
Aaron R Maxwell  
James J McGee, II  
Jose B Munoz  
Omar M Padilla  
Kevin Pitts  
Kevin K Rategan  
Irlesis Rodriguez  
Darien M Rosbach  
Timothy M Sugden  
Robert L Tangonan  
Will Thompson  
Antonio Villasenor-Alvarez

## Monthly Hours Report



### Monthly Calendar: May 2024

MAY 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Apprenticeship Classes (1st, 4th Years)			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Cinco de Mayo	Apprenticeship Classes (1st, 4th Years)		General Body Meeting		Apprentice Graduation	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mother's Day			NECA West zoom meeting 10 am pacific time			CPR / First Aid
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		JATC Meeting	Executive Board Meeting			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
End of Pay Period	Memorial Day					

## **Celebrating the 2024 Graduating Class of Tri-County JATC Apprenticeship Program**

As May unfolds we have a momentous occasion to celebrate, the remarkable achievements of our 2024 graduating class from the Tri-County Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) apprenticeship program. This year, we applaud the dedication, perseverance, and hard work of each graduate who has successfully completed their apprenticeship journey.

The path to becoming a journeyman electrician is not an easy one, yet these individuals have shown exceptional commitment and resolve in navigating through the challenges and obstacles that came their way. From countless hours of hands-on training to rigorous coursework and exams, they have demonstrated their determination to excel in their craft and uphold the highest standards of professionalism.

As they embark on this new chapter of their careers, it is essential for our graduates to remember the values and lessons instilled in them throughout their apprenticeship. They must stay focused, continue to hone their skills, and embrace every opportunity for growth and development. In a rapidly evolving industry, staying abreast of the latest technologies and best practices will be key to their success.

Moreover, let us not forget the unwavering support and encouragement provided by their families, instructors, and fellow apprentices along the way. It is through collective effort and camaraderie that our graduates have reached this significant milestone, and they carry with them the pride and legacy of our Union.



### **An Honor to Welcome Speaker Robert Rivas to Our Union Hall**

We are thrilled to announce a special event at our Union hall on June 29th, where we will have the distinct honor of hosting the Speaker of the Assembly, Robert Rivas. This event promises to be a remarkable opportunity for our members and esteemed guests to come together, engage in meaningful dialogue, and celebrate the achievements of our community.

Speaker Robert Rivas, a proud representative of Hollister, California, has been a steadfast advocate for our region's interests in the state capital. His dedication to serving the needs of working families and advancing policies that promote economic growth and social justice has earned him widespread respect and admiration.

As a hometown hero, Speaker Rivas embodies the spirit of our community and represents the values that we hold dear. His presence at our Union hall underscores the importance of grassroots engagement and collective action in shaping the future of our State.

Together, we will have the opportunity to show our appreciation and support for Speaker Robert Rivas and express our gratitude for his unwavering commitment to representing our interests in the State legislature.

Stay tuned for further details about this exciting event, including program highlights and registration information. Let us come together to celebrate our shared values, honor our distinguished guest, and reaffirm our commitment to building a brighter future for all.

We look forward to seeing you there!



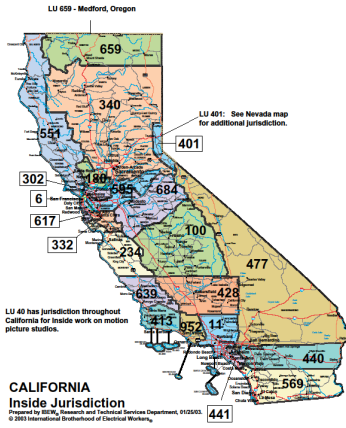
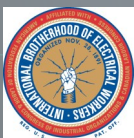
IBEW Local 234  
 747 El Camino Real  
 Salinas, Ca. 93907  
 www.ibew234.org  
 (800) 499-4239  
 (831) 633-2311  
 Email: thehall@ibew234.org  
 (831) 633-JOBS  
 (5627)Job line

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 o 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  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 CASTROVILLE, CA  
 PERMIT NO. 410

**In the Office**

**Paul Gutierrez**  
 Business Manager/  
 Financial Secretary

**Jorge Suarez**  
 CAO/Assistant  
 Business Manager

**Ron Chesshire**  
 Government Affairs

**Henry Cortez**  
 Office Administrator

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 Office Administrator

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