

Official Journal of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local 234 Salinas, CA. September, 2024 Edition



Marching Forward; A Report On Our Thriving Union

Dear Members,

As we navigate through this year, I am filled with immense pride and optimism for what lies ahead for IBEW Local 234. Our Union is experiencing a period of remarkable growth and success, characterized by a hot job market and year-high man hours. This is a direct reflection of the high demand for our skilled labor and the trust our community places in our abilities.

This exciting phase of growth and accomplishment is not incidental; it is the fruit of our collective efforts and strategic planning. Our commitment to excellence and our unity as a Union are what drive these outstanding results.

As your Business Manager, I am committed to leveraging our collective strengths to ensure that we continue to provide excellent opportunities and support to every member. Let us remain united and focused, as we continue to set benchmarks in our industry and advocate for the prosperity and well-being of our members.

Thank you for your continued dedication and trust. Here's to more achievements and a future that keeps getting brighter!

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
- Strong Work Picture is Here!
- Enhanced Visibility at 747 Driveway Entrance

The Health Corner

September is National Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month

Suicide is a leading cause of death in the US.

In 2022, there were 49,000 deaths caused by suicide, which is about one death every 11 minutes.

In 2022, suicide was the second leading cause of death for ages 10-14 and 25-34. And among the to

nine leading causes of death for ages 10-64

Construction workers: skilled trades, operators, management, laborers, have higher rates of suicide

than other workers.

Male construction workers have 65% higher rate of suicide than all US male workers .

Warning signs that someone may be at high risk for attempting suicide include:

- *Talking about wanting to die or wanting to kill themselves*
- *Talking about feeling empty or hopeless or having no reason to live*
- *Talking about feeling trapped or feeling that there are no solutions*
- *Feeling unbearable emotional or physical pain*
- *Talking about being a burden to others*
- *Withdrawing from family and friends*
- *Giving away important possessions*
- *Saying goodbye to friends and family*
- *Putting affairs in order, such as making a will*
- *Displaying extreme mood swings*
- *Making a plan or looking for ways to kill themselves*
Using alcohol or drugs more often

**If you or someone you know is in crisis:
Please dial **988** to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.**

Or locally, call: 24-hour toll-free suicide crisis line: 877-663-5433

Text HOME to 741-741 to be connected with a trained crisis counselor, 24/7, for free.

Check out NIMH organization's [suicide prevention guide](#) for more helpful resources.

**Anita Alvarez, Nurse Health Advocate
831-741-8677 (confidential work cell)
anita@ibew234.org**

234 Local Candidate Endorsements Nov. 5th, 2024 Elections

City of Watsonville

Councilmember District 1: Eduardo Montesino

Councilmember District 2: Vanessa Quiroz-Carter

Councilmember District 6: Jimmy Dutra

City of Hollister

Mayor: Mia Casey

Councilmember District 1: Rick Perez

Councilmember District 4: Tim Burns

City of Monterey

Mayor: Tyler Williamson

Councilmember District 3: Eric Palmer

Councilmember District 4: Gino Garcia

City of Seaside

Mayor Ian Oglesby

Councilmember: David Pacheco

Councilmember: Alexis Garcia-Arrazola

City of Salinas

Mayor: Chris Barrera

Councilmember District 1: Alex Ayala

Councilmember District 3: Cary Swensen or Jesus Valenzuela

Councilmember District 4: Orlando Osornio

Councilmember District: 6 Anthony Rocha

City of Gonzales

Mayor: Jose Rios

Councilmember District 4: Eva Banuelos

City of Soledad

Mayor: Anna Velasquez

City of Santa Cruz

Supervisor District 2: Kim Di Serpa or Kristen Brown

Supervisor District 5: Monica Martinez



Strong Work Picture: All Hands On Deck!

We are thrilled to report a great work picture as we continue to experience full employment, with job calls now extending deep into Book 2. This surge reflects the high demand for our skilled labor and is a testament to the quality and reliability that IBEW Local 234 members bring to every project.

Our Union's capacity to meet and exceed job demands not only secures employment for our members but also strengthens our reputation in the industry. It opens doors to new opportunities and ensures that we remain at the forefront of the electrical trade.

Let's continue to work together, uphold our standards of excellence, and keep the momentum going. Thank you for your hard work and commitment.

Member Special Announcements:

70 Year IBEW Veteran Sig Matt passed away in June of this Year. He is survived by his Wife Del and 3 children. Sig was instrumental in many groundbreaking projects here on the Central Coast and will be missed.

Kevin Rateggan and his Wife just welcomed their third (and last) child in their Family; Reese Everly Rateggan was born in early August. Everyone is happy and healthy.

Patrick Torres and McKenna Tschumperlin gave birth to Quincy Jo Torres.

Enhanced Safety Through Improved Visibility at 747

Safety is our paramount concern at IBEW Local 234, and we are constantly seeking ways to enhance the well-being of everyone who visits and works at our facilities. We are pleased to announce the completion of significant tree work around our property, which has greatly improved the field of view from our exit all the way back to the Blackie Road bridge.

This improvement was not just about aesthetics; it was a critical enhancement to ensure that everyone entering and exiting our property can do so safely, with much better visibility of oncoming traffic. Clear sightlines are essential for preventing accidents and ensuring that all our members and visitors can feel secure within our premises.

Stay safe and vigilant.

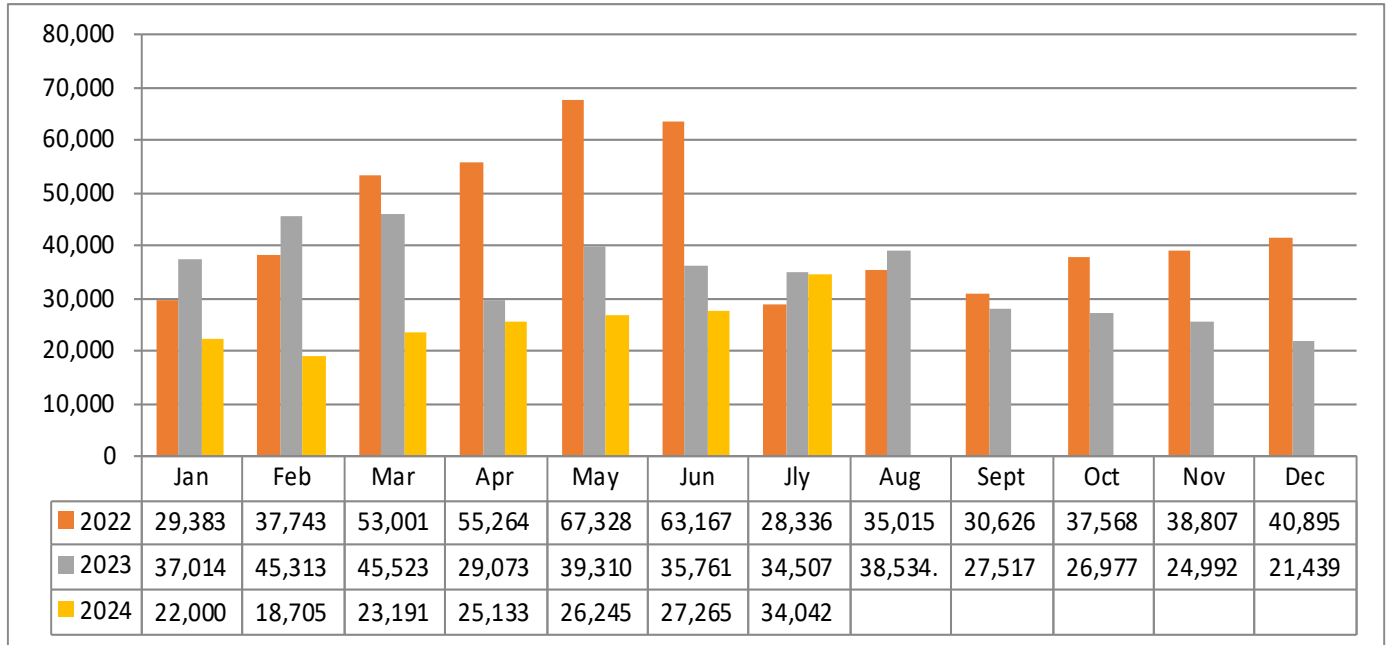


Happy September

Birthdays!

Brandon Alvarez
Nathaniel E Avila
Christopher Ayala
Matt J Battaglia
Thomas H Bell, V
Antonio H Castro
Cesar D Cortes
Richard D Edwards
Ismael G Estrada
Randall B Evans
Steve Flores
Chris Franklin
Michael O Gomez
Andrew A Hartmann
Bronson J Huerta
Wayne J Huston
Tyler M Iniguez
Nicholas A Karakas
Victor M Lopez
Ruben Lozano
Steven G Luiz
Benjamin I Madrigal
Manuel Madrigal
Daniel M Martinez
David H Martinez
Sam Martinez
Adrian G Mendoza
Jesus Montano
Armando V Munoz
Norman Navalta
Anthony E Pacheco
Chase D Palmer
Roberto J Perez
Enrique T Ramos
Estevan Rodriguez
Robert Rovella
Brian Sabado
George L Sandman
Bryan J Scott
Stephen D Slovacek
Michael C Stone
Jacob C Taylor
Tom Thomas
Kevin H Trinh
Berardo Trujillo
Juan C Vargas
Andrew T Zavala
Ronald D Zych

Monthly Hours Report



Monthly Calendar: September 2024

SEPTMBER 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 General Body Meeting	12	13	14 CPR / First Aid
15 First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month	16	17 JATC Meeting JATC Meeting	18	19	20	21 IBEW 234 Picnic at Buckeye
22 End of Pay Period	23	24	25 Executive Board Meeting	26	27	28
29	30					

Exciting Progress on the Sale of 10300 Merritt St.

I am delighted to share a significant update regarding the sale of 10300 Merritt St. to the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC). The sale is set to close within the next 90 days, a milestone that marks a pivotal moment for our local.

The successful conclusion of this sale will not only secure the JATC's future at this location but also significantly benefit our union. With the sale price set at \$1.128 million, these funds are earmarked for furthering the purposes and initiatives of IBEW Local 234.

We look forward to the positive changes that these developments will bring and are excited about the future prospects this sale will enable. Thank you for your continued support and trust as we work together to strengthen our Union and enhance the opportunities available to our members.

JATC News

UPCOMING CLASSES:

CPR / First Aid will be held **Saturday, September 14th** from **8am – 1pm** with instructor, Merralinda Goddard.

Space is limited and sign-ups are required. This is NOT a drop-in class.

NFPA 70E will be held **Saturday, October 5th** from **8am – 2pm** with instructor, David Martinez

- **Scissor / Boom Lifts training** ** will be held **Saturday, October 12th** from **7:30am – 2pm** (training done by United Rentals)

Space is very limited and sign-ups are required. This is NOT a drop-in class.

**when calling in to sign-up, please specify if you are recertifying or if this is your first time taking the training

- **Forklift / GradeAll training** ** will be held **Saturday, November 23rd** from **7:30am – 2pm** (training done by United Rentals)

Space is very limited and sign-ups are required. This is NOT a drop-in class.

**when calling in to sign-up, please specify if you are recertifying or if this is your first time taking the training

To sign up for any of the above-listed classes, call Damaris in the JATC office at (831) 633-3063.

Please note that the JATC office hours are:

MON-THURS

12pm – 5pm

(831) 633-3063

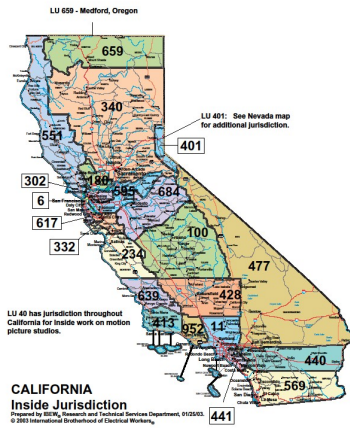
IBEW Local 234
 747 El Camino Real
 Salinas, Ca. 93907
 www.ibew234.org
 (800) 499-4239
 (831) 633-2311
 Email: thehall@ibew234.org
 (831) 633-JOBS
 (5627)Job line

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

**Local 234
 Officers in Office**

Paul Gutierrez
 Business Manager/
 Financial Secretary

Jorge Suarez
 CAO/Assistant
 Business Manager

Henry Cortez
 Organizer

Ron Chesshire
 Government Affairs

Rosie Bowers
 Office Administrator

Local 234

Officers

Andy Hartmann
 President

Jonathon Marquez
 Vice President

Enrique Ramos
 Treasurer

Stephen Slovacek
 Recording Secretary

Jeff Beers
Nick Jackson
Nicholas Pregovisk
Jorge Suarez
 Executive Board