



Official Journal of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local 234 Salinas, CA, February, 2025 Edition



Expanding Opportunities

Dear Members,

As we move through February, I want to take a moment to highlight the incredible work being done behind the scenes to ensure the success of IBEW Local 234 and, most importantly, you the member. Every decision we make, every relationship we build, and every new opportunity we create is centered around you—our brothers and sisters who represent the heart and soul of this Local.

The team at the Hall has been working tirelessly to secure more job opportunities for our members. From maintaining strong relationships with contractors to exploring new market opportunities, we're doing everything we can to ensure steady employment for all. Every new call that comes in is a direct result of those efforts, and it's a testament to the reputation we've built as a skilled, dependable, and united workforce.

But securing jobs is only part of the equation. We've also increased our focus on journeyman upgrade classes and expanding training opportunities. These classes are vital to keeping our members at the cutting edge of the electrical industry, equipping you with the tools and knowledge needed to excel in an evolving market. Whether it's state certification

prep, advanced apprenticeship programs, or specialized skills training, we're committed to ensuring that every member has access to the resources they need to grow their careers.

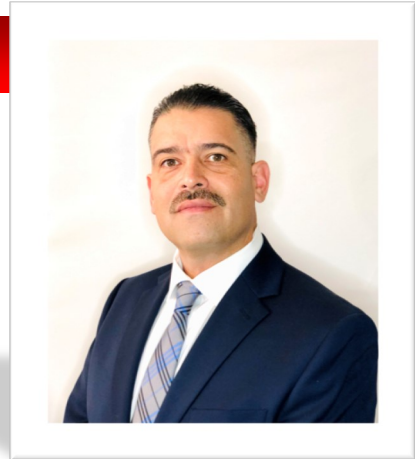
Local 234's future is as bright as ever because of the foundation we've built together. Our commitment to excellence, unity, and the success of every member is what drives us forward. While challenges may arise, the strength of this membership and our shared dedication to progress will always prevail.

This is your Union. This is your future. Together, we will continue to achieve great things, creating opportunities for ourselves and the generations to come. Let's keep the momentum going and make 2025 a year of growth, strength, and unity.

Thank you for your trust, your hard work, and your unwavering commitment to IBEW Local 234.

Paul G

Business Manager
IBEW Local 234
(831) 594-0860



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- BM Report
- JATC Investing In You

Website:

<https://ibew234.org/>

The Health Corner

Revisiting The Member Benefit: HRA/BennyCard

The HRA is a Health Reimbursement Account that is a member benefit. You must be an eligible participant in the IBEW Local 234 Health and Welfare Plan to have and use the HRA/BennyCard. The purpose of the HRA is to help offset some of your out-of-pocket health care costs while working and to save for the cost of health and welfare in retirement.

Use the HRA/BennyCard to cover the cost of health care co-pays, prescription medication co-pays, dental and vision co-pays and costs not covered by the plan.

Over the counter medications, such as Tylenol are now covered. As well as menstrual products and body support products such as ace bandages.

Vitamins are NOT covered unless you have a written prescription from your doctor. You can also use your HRA/BennyCard to pay a self-payment to continue your health care coverage.

The HRA is funded based on hours you work multiplied by the hourly contribution rate. HRA contributions are shown on your statement.

To view your balance and account activity, manage your card, request reimbursements online, and more, log on to the Wex web portal <https://fundoffice.lh1ondemand.com> or download the app "BeneSys Member Reimbursement".

If you have questions regarding the HRA or BennyCard, please contact Member Services at (408) 588-3753 or reach out to me, your nurse health advocate, and I will be happy to assist you.

Anita Alvarez, RN, PHN
Nurse/Health Advocate
Electrical Workers Health and Welfare Trust Fund
IBEW Local 234
Work #: 831-741-8677

Javier Contreras Brings His Talents to 302

We are thrilled to share that our very own Javier Contreras was invited to showcase his artistic talents at IBEW Local 302 in Martinez, where he painted the IBEW Union logo at their Hall. His incredible work has left a lasting impression, and we're proud to see his creativity and craftsmanship representing Local 234 in such a meaningful way.

Javier's dedication to his craft is a true reflection of the values we uphold at IBEW Local 234. His positive influence extends beyond our jurisdiction, strengthening the bonds and relationships that unite IBEW locals across the industry.

Thank you, Javier, for sharing your talents and for continuing to represent Local 234 with pride and excellence.



Supporting our Community after Moss Landing Incident

On January 16, 2025, a fire occurred at the Moss Landing Battery Energy Storage Facility, leading to the evacuation of residents.

We are relieved to report that no injuries have been reported, and our thoughts are with our brothers and sisters of IBEW Local 1245 who work at the facility, as well as the entire Moss Landing community.

As dedicated community partners, IBEW Local 234 stands ready to assist in any capacity to support recovery efforts and uphold the safety and well-being of our neighbors. Our commitment to the community remains steadfast, and we are prepared to collaborate with Government agencies and stakeholders to address any challenges that may arise from this incident.

This event underscores the critical importance of safety and preparedness in our industry. We will continue to prioritize these values in all our endeavors, ensuring that our work not only advances technological progress but also safeguards the communities we serve.

Investing In You

We've been working hard to respond to the needs of our membership, and I'm excited to share that big things are on the horizon at the JATC. Based on your feedback, we've expanded training opportunities, and we're building out a calendar full of classes designed to enhance your skills, keep you competitive, and provide new pathways for success.

From state certification prep courses to advanced training programs, these new offerings are geared toward addressing the challenges of today's industry while preparing you for the opportunities of tomorrow. This is about more than just training, it's about investing in you and ensuring that IBEW Local 234 remains a leader in our field.

Be sure to keep an eye on the upcoming JATC announcements and calendar releases. Whether you're a journeyman looking to expand your expertise or an apprentice just starting your journey, these classes are for you. Together, we're making Local 234 stronger, more skilled, and ready for the future.



JATC NEWS



UPCOMING CLASSES in 2025

CPR / First Aid

Saturday, February 8th 8am-1pm with instructor, Merralinda Goddard

Sign-up is required – not a drop-in class

Introduction to Blue Beam

Monday, February 24th 6pm-9pm with instructor, Andy Hartmann

Confined Spaces Awareness Training

Saturday, March 1st 8am-4:30pm (30 min break for lunch – lunch NOT provided)

***DEADLINE to sign up: by no later than 5pm Tuesday, February 18th

Sign-up is required – not a drop-in class

Happy February

Birthdays!

James E Brown

Travis A Chiapella

Erik J Fritz

Mohammed A Garaan

Ivan J Garcia Ponce

Daniel J Gilbertson

Jonathan Goddard

Anthony C Grandelli

Rick Keaton

Paul Laoretti

Michael A Magana

Omar Melgoza

Angel A Mendoza

Jorge O Mendoza

Ulises L Mendoza

Alan Minami

Joshua J Murray

Michael Nickals

Steve R Rios

Paul M Rivas

Keith Rudd

Erik W Schappert

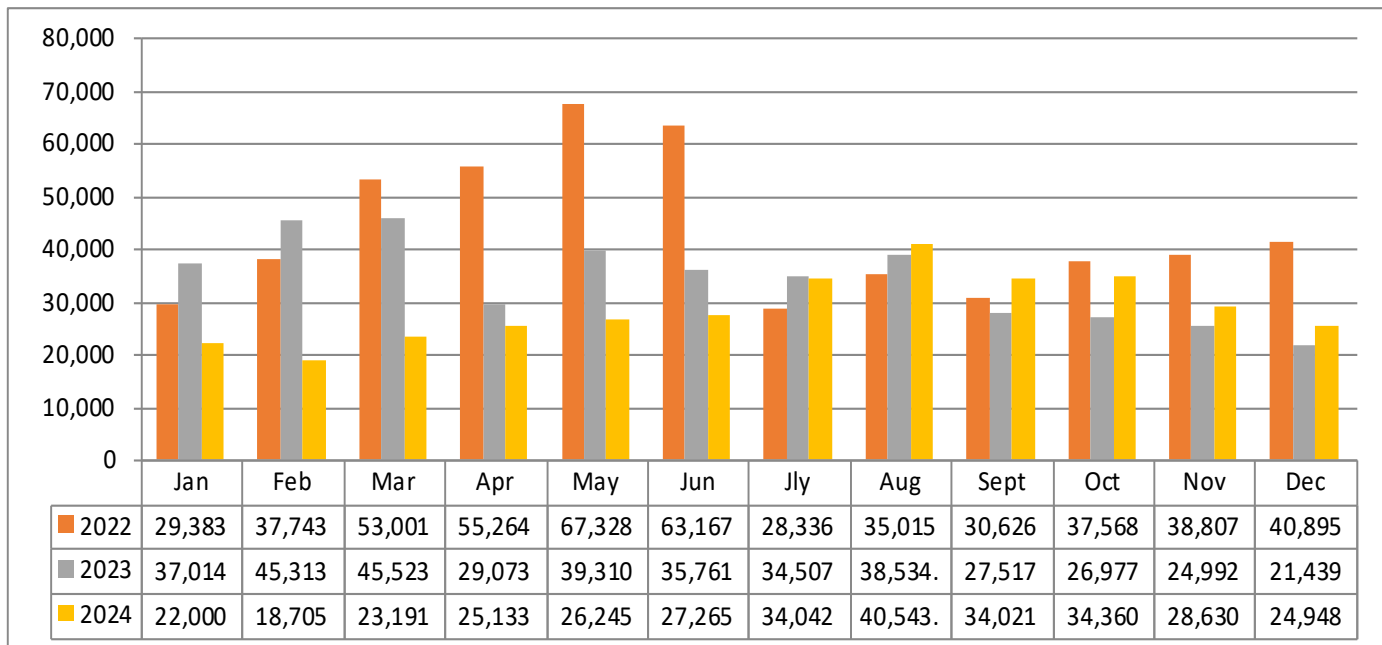
Carlos Souza

Heber L Tuazon

Ricardo Vasquez

Derek Webster

Monthly Hours Report



< FEBRUARY 2025 >						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 CPR / First Aid
2	3 Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years	4 Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	5 Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years	6 Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	7	8
9	10 Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years	11 Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	12 Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years General Body Meeting	13 Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 Presidents' Day	18 JATC Interviews JATC Meeting JATC Meeting ▼	19 Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years	20 Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	21	22
23 End of Pay Period	24 Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years Introduction to Blue Beam	25 Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	26 Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years Executive Board Meeting	27 Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	28	

A Call to Help Retiree Brother Francisco Alvarez

IBEW Local 946 Retiree Brother Francisco Alvarez lost his home in the Eaton fire, and we encourage our IBEW members to rally around Brother Alvarez during this unimaginable tragedy. His family has set up a verified GoFundMe account to help them rebuild their lives. You can donate here: <https://bit.ly/HelpIBEW946Francisco>.

Additionally, Brother Alvarez lost many cherished IBEW memorabilia and items, including his favorite IBEW hats and shirts. These items were a significant part of his life and career, and we are hoping to replace them.

We urge our local unions to send Brother Alvarez IBEW swag. Please send your care package to IBEW 946 President Jaime Morales, 13264 Woodcock Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342, and he will present the gifts to Brother Alvarez.



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

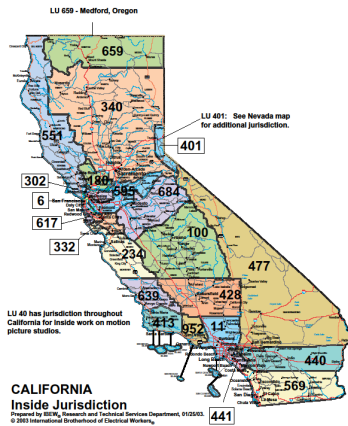
Tri-County Electrical JATC
 www.tricountyjatc.org
 info@tricountyjatc.org

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

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 Prelgovisk
Jorge Suarez
 Executive Board