

# Official Journal of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local 234 Salinas, CA. April, 2025 Edition



## A Union Built on Action

Dear Members,

April is here, and with it comes a sense of renewal and forward motion. Spring reminds us that progress isn't just possible, it's necessary. As the days get longer and the pace picks up across our jurisdiction, we stand at the intersection of hard work, preparation, and opportunity.

At IBEW Local 234, we know exactly why we show up, to raise the standard of living for our members and their families. That's the mission that has guided our Brotherhood since the beginning. We are not just electricians, we are union electricians. And that means something. It means we carry the legacy of those who came before us and the responsibility to protect what they built: Fair wages, safe working conditions, and dignity on the job.

This union was never built on waiting. It was built on action. That's why we continue to show up in the field, at the table, and in the community to make sure our members are represented, respected, and rewarded. Our apprenticeship program is growing, job calls are steadily increasing, and our visibility and voice in the community are stronger than ever.

We've seen what happens when we stand together. Whether it's expanding training opportunities, organizing new contractors, or negotiating contracts that reflect our values, our progress comes when we lead with purpose and unity.

Let's not lose sight of that. The real power of this union is not in any one position or title, it's in the collective strength of every single member who carries a ticket and believes in what we stand for. That's how we move forward, together.

Here's to another month of pushing the trade forward, protecting our jurisdiction, and lifting each other up. As always, I'm proud to stand with you.

*Paul G*

Business Manager  
IBEW Local 234  
(831) 594-0860



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- BM Report
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  - Building Strength for the Future
- Website:

<https://ibew234.org/>

## The Health Corner

### The Hidden Dangers of Hearing Loss in the Electrical Trade

Over 50% of construction workers, including electricians, experience some level of hearing loss in their careers. Daily exposure to power tools, heavy machinery, and job site noise exceeding 85–100 dB puts electricians at high risk for **permanent, irreversible hearing damage**. Many don't notice the loss until it's too late.

Early Signs of hearing loss:

- Ringing in your ears.
- Muffled sounds including voices (noticed more in high frequency ranges like with children or female voices, or birds chirping, devices beeping).
- Difficulty understanding speech.
- Need to increase the volume on devices like TVs, radios, or cell phones.

Protect your hearing:

- Wear hearing protection, earplugs or earmuffs, with a noise reduction rating (NRR) of 12 decibels when working near loud equipment.
  - Limit exposure by stepping away from noisy areas when possible.
  - Follow the 60/60 rule—keep volume at 60% for no more than 60 minutes if using headphones.
- Take breaks to allow your ears to recover from loud noise.

**Electricians should have a hearing test at least once a year.**

*Hearing loss doesn't just affect your work—it impacts communication, safety, and overall quality of life.*

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or need assistance with any health-related concern, including accessing medical care and appts. Be Well!

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

## Honoring Our Veterans Through VEEP

At IBEW Local 234, our commitment to serving those who have served our country runs deep. As a proud American union, we recognize that the backbone of our nation is built not just on hard work, but on sacrifice, duty, and honor. That's why we're proud to continue supporting our veterans through the IBEW, NECA, Electrical Training Alliance, and U.S. Armed Forces partnership known as VEEP — the Veterans Electrical Entry Program.

This program provides active duty service members with a structured pathway from military service into a rewarding union electrical career through the JATC apprenticeship. It's a win for the individual, for our industry, and for the communities we serve.

We are honored to welcome our first VEEP participant, Octavio Moreno, into our 2025 apprenticeship class. A native of Salinas, Octavio is returning home after his service in the military and stepping into the next chapter of his life by joining IBEW Local 234. His story reflects the very best of what this program is about: bringing leadership, discipline, and integrity back to the communities we come from and care about.

This year, we've opened the door to up to three veterans through the VEEP program another step forward in our continued commitment to providing opportunity, honoring service, and building a stronger future together.



### Making Our Voice Count in Local Government

As union members, we know the value of hard work, solidarity, and standing up for one another. But that responsibility doesn't stop at the gates of the job site, it extends into city halls, council chambers, and boardrooms across our jurisdiction.

IBEW Local 234 continues to prioritize attending and participating in local government meetings because we understand a simple truth: if we're not at the table, we're on the menu. Decisions about labor standards, public works, project labor agreements, energy policy, and apprenticeship requirements are being made every day, and we must be there to influence them.

When we show up and speak up, we remind local leaders that IBEW is not just a labor union, we're a partner in building strong communities. We are the electricians who power their schools, hospitals, city buildings, and infrastructure. We are their neighbors, their voters, and their workforce.

Now more than ever, it's important for our membership to stay politically aware and engaged. Our presence ensures that working families, not just special interests have a voice in shaping the future of our communities.

If you're interested in joining us at upcoming city council meetings, planning commissions, or other important local forums, please reach out to the Hall. When we walk into a room together, we don't just represent ourselves, we represent every member of IBEW Local 234, and the future we're building together.

## A New Era for Training is Upon Us!

The finish line is in sight.

After months of dedicated work, collaboration, and commitment to the long-term vision of IBEW Local 234 and the Tri-County JATC, we are proud to announce that the sale of 10300 Merritt Street is nearing completion.

This isn't just the transfer of land, it's the planting of a flag. With this step, the JATC will stand on its own two feet, with full ownership of the facility and the freedom to build out the most advanced and capable electrical training center in our region. This is how we shape the future, by putting in the groundwork today.

This is the kind of progress that turns vision into reality. From this foundation, we will continue developing top-tier apprentices, upgrading journeyman skills, and raising the standard of excellence in the trades. This is how we protect our jurisdiction, train our next generation, and leave a legacy worth inheriting.

IBEW Local 234 is proud to have played a central role in this transformational step forward. We've always said we believe in the power of training, and now, with this historic transaction, we're proving it.

The future is being built, and we're leading the charge.

### JATC NEWS

#### CLASS COMPLETIONS

\*\*\*none to report for the month of March

#### UPCOMING CLASSES

- [CPR / First Aid](#) – **RESCHEDULED** for **Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 8am-1pm

This is not a drop-in class – sign-up required.

#### [Confined Spaces Awareness](#) **Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>** from 8am-4:30pm

This is not a drop-in class – sign-up required. There is limited space for this class and the deadline by which to sign up is 5pm, Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

(There will be a 30 minute break for lunch. Lunch will NOT be provided.)

#### ANNOUNCEMENT:

After April, Damaris will no longer be with the JATC. Please call or email Stacy to sign up for classes until further notice: (831) 741-9069 or [info@tricountyjatc.org](mailto:info@tricountyjatc.org)

*Stacy Rubalcava*

Training Administrator

**Tri-County Electrical JATC**

10300 Merritt Street

Castroville, CA 95012

(831) 741-9069

**NECA WORKING  
IBEW TOGETHER**

### Happy April

### Birthdays!

**Dave C Alonzo**

**Adrien R Antosz**

**Joaquin Argueta**

**Anthony J Brenkwitz**

**Carlitos H Cortez**

**Alejandro Escobar**

**Gary C Gabriel, Jr.**

**James Nichols**

**Jorge L Gonzalez**

**John I Greene, II**

**Troy D Grier**

**Mark Hiura**

**Manuel H Jaramillo**

**Tramaine J Lamb**

**Michael F Martinez**

**Samuel V Mendoza**

**Joaquin A Mickel**

**Damian J Morales**

**Roldan A Morales**

**Matt J Munoz**

**Patricio Ortiz**

**Evey Perez**

**Mickel D Reeves**

**Alan M Repogle**

**Michael K Rodda**

**Alexander Ruelas**

**Carlos Segura**

**Sean Shiraishi**

**James B Shumaker**

**Jonathan Stanley**

**Kyle H Tuck**

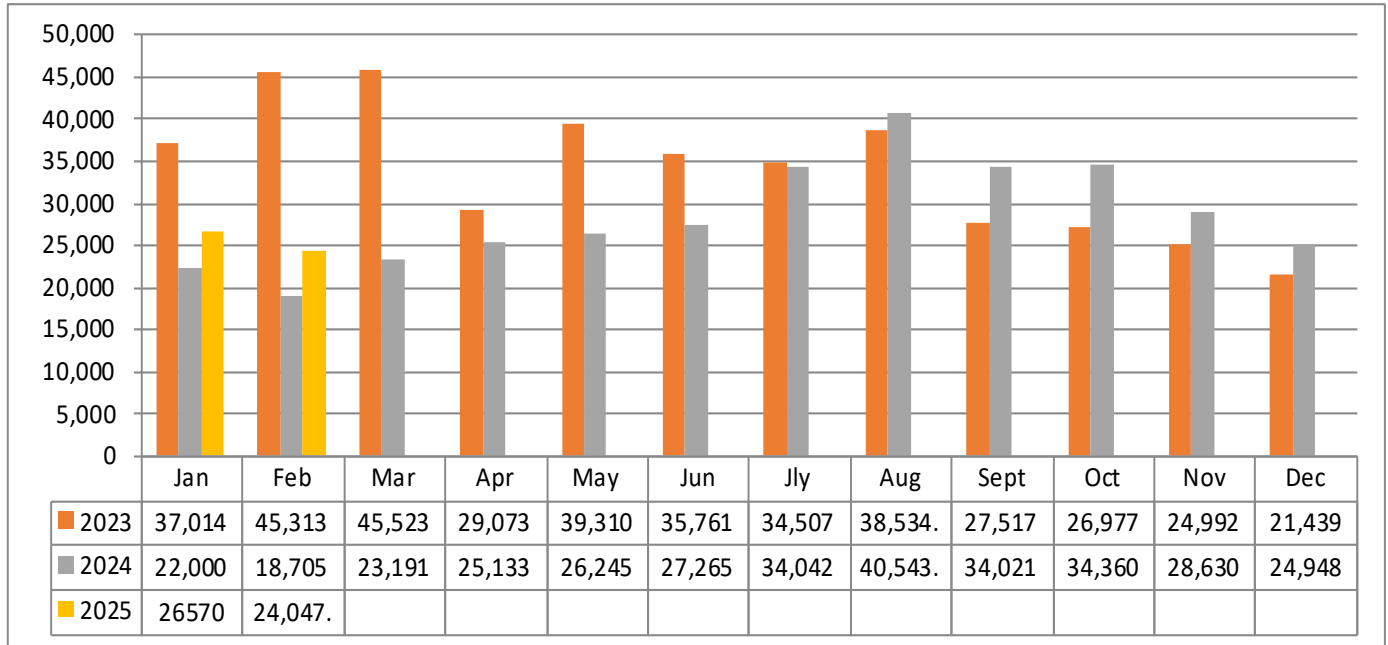
**Bryan R Tufts**

**Paul A Velasquez**

**Francisco Villanueva**



## Monthly Hours Report



APRIL 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years	Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	CPR / First Aid
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years	Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years General Body Meeting	Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	3M Medium Voltage Term/Splicing Training Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years	Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years Tax Day JATC Meeting	Tax Day Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years 3M Cable Splicing & Taping Training	Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter Sunday	Easter Sunday Easter Monday	Easter Monday	Executive Board Meeting			Confined Space Awareness
27	28	29	30			
End of Pay Period	End of Pay Period Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years	Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years	Apprentice Classes - 2nd, 4th, & 5th Years Apprentice Classes - 1st / 3rd Years			

## Building Strength For the Future

One of the often-unseen responsibilities of leadership is to ensure long-term stability and growth for the organization—not just in day-to-day operations, but in the financial health of our Union. As of 2022, IBEW Local 234 had a net organizational value of approximately \$3 million. That was the result of decades of careful stewardship, commitment, and responsibility to the membership.

But over the past three years, we've taken bold and strategic steps to push that number even higher.

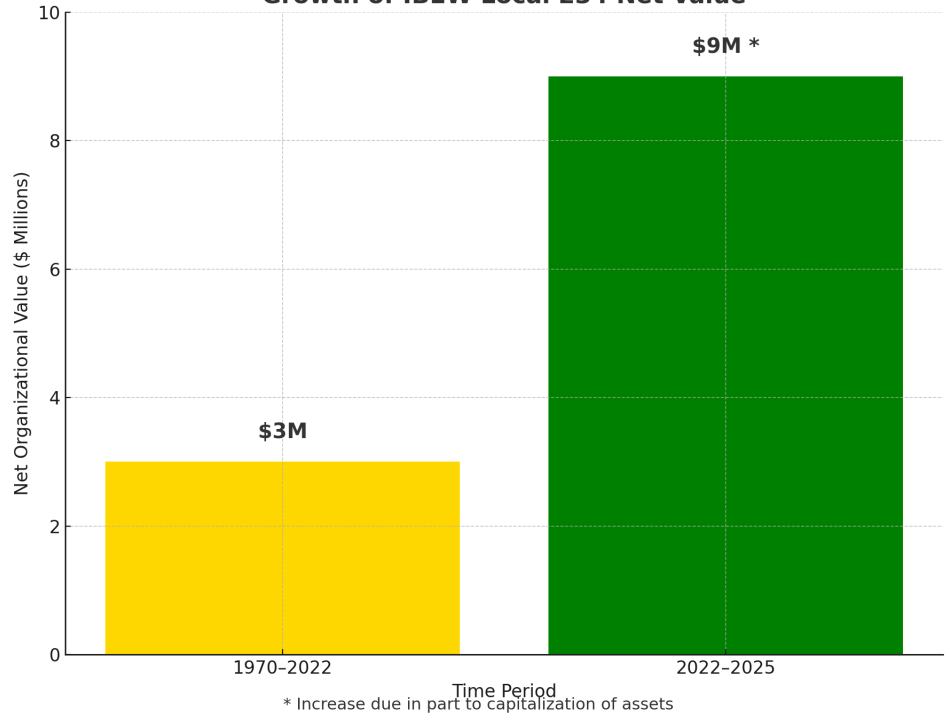
Through interest-bearing investment accounts, the capitalization of valuable assets, and smart financial restructuring, we've been able to triple the net value of our organization, bringing it to over \$9 million today. And we're not stopping there.

This sentiment isn't about boasting, it's about building. Building greater work opportunities, building better infrastructure, and building a Local that has the resources to support our members in good times and in hard times. It's about being prepared for the future and taking control of our destiny.

This financial trajectory sets us up for continued expansion, opportunity, and strength for years to come.

Let's keep growing together.

**Growth of IBEW Local 234 Net Value**



Pictured below is our original Union Hall





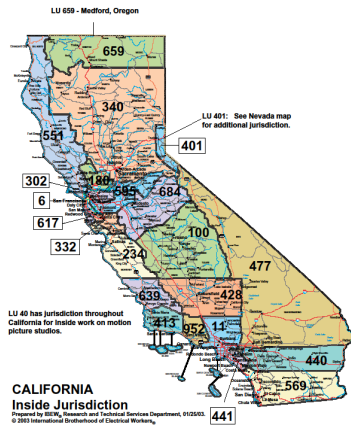
IBEW Local 234  
747 El Camino Real  
Salinas, Ca. 93907  
www.ibew234.org  
(800) 499-4239  
(831) 633-2311  
Email: thehall@ibew234.org  
(831) 633-JOBS  
(5627)Job line

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 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

# Essay Contest

Christopher Burditt Memorial Scholarship



**IBEW Local 234**  
thehall@ibew234.org

## Essay Contest Details

IBEW 234 is offering (3) \$1500.00 scholarships to high school graduates-one each in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito County who will graduate during the current school year and who meet all the qualifying criteria.  
To apply, a student must have at least one present or past union member of any affiliation in his or her immediate family and type and essay of approximately 500 words on one of the following topics:

- 1) What is the international Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and what has it done to enhance organized labor?
- 2) Why is the organized labor movement important in the United States today?
- 3) How has the union movement played a key role in the life and well-being of my family member who is or was in a union?



<https://ibew234.org/member-resources>

**Applications Due By  
Friday, April 4th 2025**

Send Applications to:

Chris Burditt Scholarship  
C/O IBEW Local 234  
747 El Camino Real N.  
Salinas, CA 93907

