



Signing Up with the Credit Union!

All 595 members with Vacation Accounts are encouraged to join the United Workers Federal Credit Union! Accounts are federally insured up to \$250,000.00. Automatic monthly transfers from your Vacation Account with Zenith Administrators provide ease of access. At the 595 Benefits Fair, above, another member joined over 1,000 other 595 members who are enjoying the benefits of belonging to the United Workers FCU. For information call Christina Boyd at (510) 537-6800 or visit the United Workers FCU website at: www.unitedworkersfcu.org



595 members working for Morrow Meadows and Aeco (above) at the Jack London Market on Oakland's waterfront. The \$55 million, 170,000 sq. ft. mixed-use building is scheduled for opening this coming Spring.



WWW.IBEW595.ORG

Local 595 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

The **595 Connection**



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Vol. 17 Issue 1
January - February 2009

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

"We need to level the playing field for workers and the unions that represent their interests," President Barack Obama announced when he signed recent executive orders removing former president Bush's anti-union orders. *"I do not view the labor movement as part of the problem. To me it's part of the solution. You cannot have a strong middle class without a strong labor movement."*

It is a new day in Washington, D.C. After eight years of relentless attacks by the Bush administration, America's unions have a historic opportunity to work with a president who sees organized labor as a friend, and not an enemy. This new day was underscored by the President's Executive Order on February 6th, reversing the Bush administration's ban on the use of Project Labor Agreements for federal construction projects.



595 members finishing up the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS) project at U.C. Berkeley, in preparation for its February 27 opening and dedication.

Last year, then-candidate Obama wrote: *"We need to make sure the government uses project labor agreements to encourage completion of projects on time and on budget. One of the first things George Bush did when he got into office was to ban PLAs. One of the first things I'll do as President is repeal that ban."*

On the 18th day of the new administration, President Obama made good on his promise. We

join all of our country's building trades unions and rejoice in this historic action by our nation's commander-in-chief.

Historic Challenges
President Obama assumes office with challenges of historic and monumental proportions. Our new president inherits two costly wars, a world-wide economic crisis, and profound global environmental challenges. These "big-picture" issues affect all of us, and as we follow events in our nation's capitol, we know that national policies will affect California, and eventually our jurisdictions in Alameda, Calaveras and San Joaquin counties.

Our challenges are many, and they are profound. The repercussions of the economic melt-down of 2008 are now affecting all of us.

Locally, there are some construction projects that have been

Continued on Next Page

ATTEND YOUR LOCAL UNION MEETINGS

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LOCAL 595 INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
6250 Village Parkway
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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 595

Alameda JATC

The Spring 2009 school semester officially began on Tuesday, January 20, 2009. The 2nd and 3rd bracket apprentices will once again be attending day school under the direction of Mel Switzer. Do to the current economic situation there is currently no 1st bracket class.

Bill Mattson and Jim Guthrie along with Donald Dones will once again be teaching



Jim Guthrie with the new work boards being used in the CE advanced motor control classes.

the 4th and 5th bracket classes with Dan Holgate returning as the 6th bracket instructor.

Brackets 7, 8, 9, and 10 will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings with the first class night taking place on January 20th. 7th Bracket will again be taught by Mel Switzer with Paul Marsaglia, Nick Gigliotti and Chris Hillyer serving as 8th bracket instructors.

The 9th bracket instructors are Cary Matsumura, Bill Kenney and Kurt Dembrowicz. After a year and a half gap without a 10th bracket class, the program welcomes back Bob Wright and Paul Rodgers as apprentice instructors.

The Continuing Education/Journeyman class schedule for the Spring 2009 semester was distributed to all 595 journeymen members in early January. Initial response to classes has been outstanding with over 300 registrations received to date.

All Continuing Education classes offered by the Alameda County Electrical JATC will count towards the



San Leandro Police Department holds police dog training at the San Leandro Training Center.

32-hour continuing education requirement for California State Electrician Certification renewal.

Please contact the program at 510.351.5282 ext. 0 for further information on CE classes.

The work picture is very slow, with Apprentice unemployment hovering around 20%. Many Bay Area programs are reporting unemployment rates ranging from 15% to 30%.

- Byron Benton, Training Director

Stockton JATC

We greet 2009 with much anticipation. We have a new President with many challenges and we need to rally around him in these hard economic times.

The Training Center is in full swing with apprentice classes and Journeyman Continuous Education classes in session. Many of the C.E. classes are full but there are still some classes with openings. There are Recertification applications at the Training Center with the location of training section entered with our information for anyone interested. The DAS has asked electricians to send in their applications about one month prior to recertification expiration but not more than three months.

Employment for apprentices in the Stockton area is steady at this time with 2 apprentices listed on the available for work list and several apprentices missing time at the shops they are assigned too. In recent meetings, surveys list California Electrical JATC's are averaging 12% to 45% unemployment so we are doing better than most.

We have three large projects in our area that will most likely be reducing their work force so the future job market is somewhat

questionable. Recently two projects awarded to local Union contractors were pulled and were let out for rebid. Both of these projects (about \$1,000,000 each) were awarded to nonsignatory contractors. Stockton Unified School District has many projects tied to large bonds passed recently and due to the efforts of our IBEW and NECA representation, favorable language was included which help our signatory contractors as they bid on these projects. It is yet to be determined if this work is to go forward due to the budget problems plaguing our schools and state. I truly believe we need to be in contact with our legislative representatives regarding passing a responsible budget.

Going back to 2008 for a moment we had a fantastic Christmas party again this year and Santa made his timely visit to the delight of one of the largest groups of children in recent years. There was food abundant to go along with calendars and tee shirts for apprentices and toys for the kids.

The Stockton Apprenticeship was audited by the Department of Apprenticeship Standards in December. The auditor spent three days going over every apprentice file,



Please...Please smile for 595's Santal Ava Castle with Santa

visiting all classrooms and labs, and visiting job sites to interview our apprentices. In the audit report the DAS representative could not find any noncompliant items or request any improvement recommendations. In my conversation with the representative, I was told we have a very professional program and she said the apprentices she interviewed had great attitudes and by every indication were getting an excellent education both at school and on the job. I would like to congratulate the JATC committee, instructors, and journeyman for a fantastic job.

- Dave Brooks, Training Director

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 595

Big Turnout for Russell Cities Hearing

IBEW 595 members and their families, joined by many other Building Trades workers, packed a January 21 hearing in Hayward, calling for the building of the Russell Cities Energy Center.

"This project will create 650 union construction jobs at a time of unprecedented losses and unemployment," said Barry Luboviski, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alameda County Building Trades Council. "We do not take on building projects at any cost if we believe it is going to victimize the community. This project meets standards, has equity and integrity."

The Russell City Energy Center is a 600 megawatt electric generating facility proposed for the City of Hayward. This natural gas fired, fuel efficient power plant would be located at the West end of Depot Road - adjacent to the existing waste water treatment plant. The \$ 1 billion facility is expected to require 900,000 total work hours for its construction.

Calpine, the project developer, signed a CURE project labor agreement (PLA) to build the power plant. The project is privately financed and will use no public funding.

At the January 21 public meeting, the Air District was seeking public input on its intention to issue the final permit. While the Russell City Energy Center will meet the most stringent emissions limits ever applied to any similar plant anywhere in the nation, there were many speakers from local groups who voiced strong opposition to its construction.

"We understand the need for clean air and clean water," said 595 apprentice Ron Alderman with his wife and infant child at his side. "We live in Hayward. This is a good project that has passed all the tests. It is time to get this project off the drawing board and get it built."

The Russell City Energy Center has been in the permitting process since May 22, 2001. The final permit in this long process must be issued by the Bay Area

Air Quality Management District. The public hearings on this issue were concluded on February 6, and a final report by the Air District is expected.

Members Acknowledged

Many thanks to 595 members and their families for their show of support for the Russell City project.

Attendees for the BAAQMD meeting at Hayward City Hall on 1-21-09:

James Riley, John T. Collins, Ignacio Vargas, Vic Rolita, Chuck Rayburn, John Disken and wife Kathy, Sam Kharufeh, Siosaia Hafoka, Albert Mendoza, Nathan Sexton, Barbara Dees and son Mike, Steve Real, Gilbert Castillo, Craig Fatkin, Daniel Romero, Tony Lawrence, Susanna



The Alderman family

Kiley, Jason Bates, Andrew Mozgiel, Vick Parks, Robert Backus, John Fogarty, Andrew Johns, James Manibog, Brian Stewart, Joel Bucklin with family, Sean, Alexis, Trevor and Rock, John Golding, Paul Major, Tim Lewis, Mel Switzer, Pat Cailteaux, Phil Herrera and wife Cindy, Terry C Padilla

with Michelle and Marissa, Bill Mattson, Jason Furtado with wife and two daughters, Mark Dolan and Catalina Nelson, Ian Davidson, Pete Simon and guest, Eric Kullmann, Tony Bacon, Doyle Cantrell, Byron Benton, Kin Hui,

Tom Mullarkey, Matt Maloon, Anna Davis, Ronald Alderman with Casey and daughter, Mike Whitfield, Jeff Bui, Eric Gonzalez, Augie Simonetti III, Emily Chen, Kevin Affleck, Chris Kirby, Ben James, Jeremy Kernode, Carroll Braxton, Russell Clay, C.J. Faubert, Andy Walker, Derek Standlee, Eduardo Hierro, Edwin



Barry Luboviski addressed the hearing.

Singh, Manuelle McClendon, Mia Rivas, Josh Gleave, Sergio Gonzalez, Ryan Rolita, John Reddy, Ali Tam, Chris Nelson, William Lee, Jerome Wiggins, Joseph Balistreri, Fred Laban, Casey Markovich, James Smith, Justin Powers, Chris Nieto, Mark Lewis, Jerry Low, Robert Lopez, Louisa Sanders, Aaron Treas, Ryan Carlson, Omar Grande, Steve Walton, Steve Adams, Marvin Smith, Catherine Ferrill.

Special thanks to the following for their public comments during the BAAQMD meeting: Ron Alderman, Joel Bucklin, Jeff Bui, Mel Switzer, Byron Benton, Matt Maloon, and Darlene Best from NECA.

Attendees at the Board of Supervisors meeting on 1-13-09: Pat Gallagher, Vic Parks, Mark Selover, Matt Maloon, Tom Mullarkey, Joel Bucklin and his son, Byron Benton, Stefan Gilkerson, Cheuk Wing Yang and Ron Alderman with wife Casey and their daughter.

Matt Maloon and Tom Mullarkey



A standing-room-only crowd turned out for the Jan. 21 hearing.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 595



Photos, top left, clockwise: IBEW President Hill addresses conference; Local 595 members at workshop; hundreds of EWMC and AFL-CIO delegates at Jan. 15 meeting; Bridget Hall with work crew; another housing work crew with 595 and other members.

EWMC Conference Honors King with Community Service

Twelve IBEW Local 595 members travelled to New Orleans January 15-18 to attend the annual conference of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC). Heeding the call of then President-elect Barack Obama to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy through community service, these members joined hundreds of IBEW members and other trade-union activists of the AFL-CIO and contributed two days of community service to help that city's continuing efforts to rebuild.

said 595 apprentice Mia Rivas. "I have always been active in my community in Oakland, and coming to New Orleans is very special."

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated the city, killing more than 1,800 people and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless. The AFL-CIO's Gulf Coast Revitalization Program is investing \$1 billion into new housing, funding economic development projects, creating thousands of new jobs, and helping to train returning workers for new jobs.

"This was a very important effort,"

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Apprentices Working Around the Bay...

At right, going clockwise, apprentice Pedro Penate Alonso (center) doing PVC work with Jorge Quintero and Steven Deering at the Union City Masonic Home; apprentice Salvador Ramirez with Mel Orejudes at Oakland's Castlemont High; apprentice Andrew Marshall with Rick Gossett at the Jack London Square Market; apprentices Brian Clevenger, Aaron Downing with Al Brohard at Oakland's Kaiser Hospital; apprentice Ryan Carlson at Las Positas College in Pleasanton; apprentice Rachel Bryan at the Castro Valley library.

- Tom Mullaakey photos



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 595



Packed Meeting for Benefit Fair

A standing-room-only crowd gathered at 595's hall on Saturday, January 3, to hear from 595's benefit plan providers. Representatives from Dodge and Cox, Kaiser Permanente, PacifiCare, Delta Dental, Vision Service Plan, Rx Solutions, Anthem-Blue Cross, Putnam Investments for the new Health Reimbursement Accounts (RHA) and Zenith Administrators were present to discuss plan coverage and benefits.

Ken Olivier, president of Dodge and Cox, explained the effects of the world-wide financial downturn on Local 595 pension plan. For the plan year, the defined benefit plan portfolio experienced a 28% loss in total fund value, during a year in which the Dow Jones Industrial average dropped from over 13,000 to 8,000, a dramatic and unprecedented loss in recent stock market history. Mr. Olivier took many questions from members, and Local 595 pension trustees were present to hear member concerns for the upcoming pension trust meeting.

EWMC Conference...

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This year's EWMC community service effort was coordinated with the AFL-CIO. Over 500 volunteers worked on 15 city parks, 7 homes, an African American museum, and a church. IBEW members installed new lighting, power systems, did troubleshooting and repaired electrical systems.

EWMC Conference

After two days of community service, over 300 EWMC delegates met January 17 and 18 to discuss the organization's efforts over the past year. IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill addressed the conference, noting the significance of the election of Barack Obama as the country's 44th president. IBEW Secretary-Treasurer Lindel Lee and New Orleans' IBEW Local 130 business manager Robert "Tiger" Hammond also gave greetings and thanks to the EWMC delegates for their community service efforts.

EWMC president Robbie Sparks, business manager for IBEW local 2127 in Atlanta, Georgia, spoke on the continuing efforts to help promote the participation of minorities and women in the IBEW through local chapter activities.

Delegates participated in a training program by Cornell University professor Samuel Bacharach, where leadership and organizing skills were emphasized.

The closing of the conference held a special thank you for 595 delegate and Executive Board member Bridget Hall. Bridget played a critical role in organizing all of the rebuilding projects for the 500 volunteers, and without her efforts, the projects would not have succeeded. 595 delegates, sponsored by the union and the Alameda County Labor-Management Cooperation Committee (LMCC), represented apprentices and journey-level members: Bridget Hall, Earl Hampton, Ron Pedro, Christine Sigel, Charles Brown, Mike Whitfield, Tanya Pitts, Mia Rivas, Jeff Bui, Carroll Braxton, Roy Blackshire and Victor Uno.

Calling all 595 Retirees!

2009 is a great time to join 595's retirees' club!

Dues are only \$15 a year; we get together the second Friday of each month for entertainment, camaraderie, and great \$5 lunches (including two entrees); and some wonderful trips coming up: "The Lion King" in Sacramento, Teatro Zinzanni in San Francisco, Russian River Escape with a visit to Korbel Winery, Rick Ellis sings Sinatra in the City by the Bay, Sedona/Grand Canyon (6 days and nights), and an afternoon at Golden Gate Fields. All these trips include restaurant meals.

Call Les Bridge at (925) 245-1876 for more information!

Congratulations to the Proud Parents of Our Newest 595 Additions!

Efrem and Melanie Fanene, proud parents of Aubrie Grace Fanene, born August 9, 2008.

Jayson and Chantelle Cadirao, proud parents of Uriah Cadirao, born September 29, 2008.

Vehid and Julie Husejnovic, proud parents of Leila Husejnovic, born November 27, 2008.

Steve and Danielle Marchetti, proud parents of Angelina Marchetti, born October 7, 2008.

Our Condolences to the Families of Our Recently Departed Members...

Peter J Bell, passed on January 6, 2009, 75 years old and a member for 48 years.

Raymond Rose, passed on January 6, 2009, 82 years old and a member for 55 years.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 595

Business Manager Report...*continued from front page*

halted or delayed due to the downturn. The Shorestein 601 Civic Center project, a 23-story all-union commercial building, was recently put on hold. The inability of California to pass a state budget has stopped construction projects at Cal State East Bay, as well as at some state-funded projects at U.C. Berkeley. Funding and financing issues, all necessary to carry on with needed construction efforts, are seriously challenged due to the current economic crisis.

In Alameda County, the work picture is slow, with as many as 30 apprentices currently unemployed. There are a number of projects that are expected to hire in the coming months. Members were mobilized in January to speak on behalf of the Russell Cities Energy Center. If this project clears its final permits, it will help put many wiremen and apprentices to work. In addition, there are a number of hospital projects that are expected to go forward, even as commercial projects are delayed.

Pension Funds Hit

Last year's financial meltdown hit our pension benefit plan with unprecedented losses. As reported to members at the January 3rd Benefit Fair, investment losses were at 28%. When the plan's 7.5% actuarial expectation is added to this loss, the pension fund will have an unprecedented overall loss.

Every union defined benefit pension plan was hit with similar losses, and we will have to make difficult decisions in the coming months.

Pension trustees recently engaged Ron Kikawa, UBS Financial Services, Inc., as the plan's investment advisor and consultant to assist trustees with managing and investing the plan's assets. Trustees will be taking positive steps to diversify the plan's investment portfolio over the coming months. Given the great uncertainty and instability of the current financial markets, this process will be carefully deliberated, with much advice from actuary, legal and auditing professionals.

The new administrator of our benefit plans, Zenith Administrators, faced serious challenges in the change over from Marana Benefits. We now expect more timely reporting for your health and welfare dollar banks, as well as contributions and performance of your Money Purchase Plan accounts.

During the change of plan administrators, it was discovered that serious errors by the previous plan administrator led to financial losses to our pension plan. At the direction of your pension trustees, legal counsel to the plan has initiated steps to recover those losses.



Alameda County supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker (center), with other members of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, were given a tour of the JATC by Coordinator Mel Switzer on January 11.

National Stimulus Package

As I finish this report, Congress is considering an economic stimulus package that in President Obama's words will "put Americans to work, doing the work that America needs" with much emphasis on "shovel ready" projects building roads, highways, the nation's power grid and other infrastructure projects.

With over 3.6 million jobs lost since the beginning of the recession, it is clear that bold leadership from our nation's capitol is needed. America's working families are hoping for our new president to succeed.

Stronger, Working Together,

Victor Uno
Business Manager



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Executive Board
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Sean Kyle - Ron Pedro - Aaron Stagg

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 595

Obama Off to a Strong Start

Bob Balganorth

Obama is off to a strong start, but anti-worker obstructionists are still out to thwart progress.

Thanks to the disastrous anti-worker policies of the Bush Administration,

things are tougher today for American workers than at any time since the Great Depression.

The good news is that President Barack Obama has already made great strides toward fixing some of the terrible damage done to workers by President Bush and his Republican cronies over the last decade.

But you can be certain that our enemies aren't sitting around idly waiting for the President and the labor movement to win the day and restore a decent quality of life to working men and women.

Far from it. The right-wing Republican obstructionists took a major beating last Election Day, but they are still out there, and still working their mischief, and still hoping to use any means at their disposal to thwart our progress.

For example, among Obama's first cabinet appointments was Rep. Hilda Solis, D-Los Angeles, to serve as Secretary of Labor. It was a great choice for workers. During her time in Congress and the California Legislature, Solis amassed an outstanding record on labor issues.

President Obama announced the appointment of Rep. Solis to the position in mid-December, but as of early February there was still no vote scheduled on her confirmation. That's because Republican Senators sought, and as a procedural courtesy were granted, additional time to submit

additional queries. They don't like Solis' strong pro-labor record, especially her staunch support of the Employee Free Choice Act, and they're looking for reasons to derail her nomination, and trying to discredit her for allegedly being too close to unions.

It's really just the same old obstructionism. They lost the election but are still trying to save their failed agenda.

Expect more of the same when Congress considers the Employee Free Choice Act, which will ensure the right of workers to form unions when over 50 percent sign union membership cards, impose greater penalties on employers who discriminate against union supporters, and provide for mediation and arbitration when employers and unions fail to negotiate first contracts.

Obama has made this measure a top priority, and it is expected to pass the House, but will face tougher sledding in the Senate, where big business will pull out all the stops to try to keep a combination of at least 41 Republicans and rogue Democrats from ending a filibuster and preventing a vote on the bill.

The President and his labor allies will be fighting to ensure the 60 Senate votes needed to end the obstructionist filibuster and bring this important measure to a vote. It's an uphill effort. We'll need every vote.

Also, in recent days, anti-worker politicians have stepped up their efforts to strip needed job-creating public works projects from Obama's economic stimulus package, falling back instead on the tired old mantra of more tax cuts for the rich.

In spite of the obstructionists' best work, some efforts to begin to undo the damage of the Bush years are coming to fruition.

The first legislation the new president signed was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act, to ease the statute of limitations for pay discrimination lawsuits, and make it possible for more women to recover wages wrongfully denied them because of their gender. Bush, by contrast, had vowed to veto that bill had it passed during his presidency.

President Obama then signed a series of executive orders undoing a number of egregious anti-worker Bush policies.

One order required federal contractors to offer jobs to current workers when contracts change. Another repealed a policy encouraging employers with federal contracts to post anti-union notices. A third required contractors to inform employees of collective bargaining rights. Yet another prevented federal contractors from being reimbursed for expenses meant to influence workers on whether to form a union and engage in collective bargaining.

"We need to level the playing field for workers and the unions that represent their interests," the President said as he signed the orders. "I do not view the labor movement as part of the problem. To me it's part of the solution. You cannot have a strong middle class without a strong labor movement."

Election Day 2008 was a great victory. But the economic crisis is still of epic proportions, and the challenge before us remains immense. Our enemies continue to fight for their agenda. We damn well better keep fighting like hell for ours.

Robert L. Balganorth is the President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California

