

# The 595 Connection



**Victor Uno, Business Manager/Financial Secretary**  
6250 Village Parkway, Dublin CA 94568-3004

**Vol. 18 Issue 1**  
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## BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

*A Wet Welcome to a New Decade!*

Thunderstorms deluged Local 595 with much needed rains as we start a new decade. We are all hoping that 2010 will be a much better year for our jurisdiction. We need water, and members need work. While nature will decide the former need, the nation's economy, government policy and our own organizing efforts will help determine the latter.

Closing out a decade gives us an opportunity to reflect on what the past 10 years brought to workers, our families, and our IBEW.

Richard Trumka, president of our AFL-CIO, recently slammed what he called a "decade of corporate empowerment" that "celebrated private greed over public service." These policies that affected the nation's economic structure promoted trade policies that encouraged shipping U.S. jobs overseas; financial deregulation



*Vehid Husejnovic, Eric Harrison, Dave White, Brett Gibson and Steven Marchetti installing a PV system at Pleasanton's corporation yard.*

that promoted speculation; and the systematic dismantling of the nation's pension and health care systems.

"These policies culminated in the worst economic decade in living memory," noted Trumka. "We suffered a net loss of jobs, the housing market collapsed, real wages fell and more children fell into poverty... This is not a portrait of a cyclical recession, but of a nation with profound, unaddressed structural economic problems ..."

Labor leaders are calling for "an entirely different kind of economy," the core of which must include the creation of millions of

new jobs, the freedom of workers to form unions, real health care reform and appropriate regulation of the country's financial system.

With millions of workers not working, there has been broad support for the extension of unemployment benefits and health care assistance by congress and the Obama administration.

Getting workers back to work – not just bailing out banks and financial institutions – is the challenge for our country.

### Massachusetts Thunderstorm

I am writing this report on the heels of the Democratic Party's loss of a U.S. Senate seat in Massachusetts. This election was a thunderstorm of a different kind, as a senate seat held for generations by pro-Labor Democrats, was lost to a virtually unknown Republican, Scott Brown. With the loss of this senate seat, Labor's ability to achieve meaningful

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**ATTEND YOUR LOCAL UNION MEETINGS**

**Business Manager Report...**

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health care reform, along with the Employee Free Choice Act, is in serious doubt. The Republican Party can now use the filibuster to stop these important efforts.

One big lesson from this election: never take anything for granted. It was thought by many that the liberal state of Massachusetts would elect a pro-Labor Democrat, and "resting on ones laurels" proved to be the undoing of the pro-Labor Democratic candidate.

In Local 595, we have always worked hard to support those candidates and issues that help our members and our families. While taking serious note of what happened in Massachusetts, we will have to redouble our own efforts to make sure that pro-Labor candidates prevail.

**Changing of the Guard**

In early December, Barry Lubovski retired as Secretary-Treasurer of our Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda County. In his 14 years as Secretary-Treasurer, Barry worked tirelessly on behalf of the twenty-eight building trades crafts affiliated with the council. At city council meetings, school boards, commissions, and in negotiations with developers, Barry gave 110% for our labor movement.

Andreas Cluver was unanimously elected to succeed Barry, and he comes to the council with many years of experience in labor. Andreas played a large role in the negotiations for the Maritime and Aviation Project Labor Agreement (MAPLA) at the Port of Oakland; worked for the AFL-CIO's Solidarity Center in Southern Africa; served as a compliance officer for IBEW 595/NorCal NECA; and led negotiations for the PLA for the BART Connector project.

Most recently, working with Barry and the council, close to \$2 billion in PLA's were successfully negotiated that will benefit all affiliated unions. Cluver has vowed, "we will continue this trend and enforce the message that 'if you want to build in Alameda County, you will build it Union!'"

**Spirit of Giving**

This past holiday season, I need to acknowledge the spirit of generosity and giving that our IBEW members provided. Doug Hall, who heads the Red Cross blood drives at our hall, reported that members and other volunteers gave 59 units on December 6th. Mark your calendars for the next collection date, when Re-Sign Day starts again on April 5.

Many toys were donated for the Toys for Tots drive, and Kat Limnios-McFadden reports that 375 pounds of food were collected for the Alameda County Community



Local 6 and 595 members give Liz Shuler, AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer, a big welcome at the EWMC conference Jan. 15. Liz is an IBEW member who worked with 595 on political campaigns.


**Food Bank.**

The solidarity shown by our local was replicated at the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus conference held on the holiday weekend of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., January 14-17. Local 595 delegates, along with over 300 other IBEW members from across the country, donated over \$7,000 towards relief efforts for earthquake-stricken victims in Haiti. These monies will be given to Doctors Without Borders and the American Red Cross relief efforts.

The spirit of giving shown by our members gives all of us pride to be IBEW.

Best wishes to all for 2010,

Victor Uno  
Business Manager



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# Organizing Report

Welcome to the following new "traveling" contractor who recently became signatory with IBEW 595: CSI Electrical Contractors, from the Los Angeles area, will be doing work at the Port of Oakland.

We also welcome new signatory contractor Silman Construction who performs industrial work. Silman Construction is based in San Leandro.

IBEW signatory employer Sylvania Lighting Services recently merged with non-union Amtek Lighting Services in Northern California. IBEW 340 and 595 had a total of 37 Fixture Maintenance members working at Sylvania before the merger. Amtek employed 45 non-members.

Sylvania Lighting, a large national company, has taken this opportunity to walk away from its contract with the IBEW in Northern California. Sylvania has the ability to do this because of new rules put in place at the NLRB by Bush era appointees. These rules allow a merged company to withdraw recognition of an existing, binding contract solely on the basis of the ratio between union members to non-member

employees in the new combined workforce.

We are working with Local 340 to reverse this injustice.

Sam Kharufeh

reports that California Assembly Member Galgiani asked for representatives of the Stockton Building Trades to come to Sacramento to speak on behalf of the proposed High Speed Rail Project. This five year project would link Northern and Southern California and is expected to cost \$40 billion.

As president of the San Joaquin County Building Trades Council, IBEW 595 Business Representative Tony Bertolucci addressed the Senate Committee on Project Feasibility. Tony stressed the value this project would bring to California as well as the extreme need for jobs now for the many unemployed construction workers in the State.



President Tieman initiates new 595 members at the Jan. 15 general membership meeting.

Due to the efforts of Local 595 and the San Joaquin County Building Trades, the City of Stockton has adopted a local hire ordinance for public works projects over \$100,000. If you notice work in Stockton being done by an out of town contractor, please contact the 595 office in Stockton so that we can monitor the job to ensure that this ordinance is being followed.

During this recession, IBEW 595 staff and officers continue to pursue every avenue that can result in additional work for our members. Please do as much as you can to assist these efforts. Remember that we are "Stronger Working Together".

- Matt Maloon, Organizing Director

## Pension Update

The extension of the Alameda County Inside Construction Agreement between Local 595 and NorCal-NECA called for the parties to establish a self-directed money-purchase plan for members by January 1, 2010. Efforts to establish this option through the existing MPP plan faced serious legal challenges and the parties agreed to participate in the National Electrical 401(k) Plan (NEFP) as a result.

On December 18, 2009, IBEW Local 595 and NECA agreed to amend the Alameda County Inside Construction Agreement to enable members working under the Agreement to participate in the NEFP. A copy of this Amendment was recently sent to the administrative offices of NEFP along with a request that NEFP participation begin as soon as possible.

The NEFP allows eligible participants to make contributions via pre-tax deferrals (i.e. monies withheld pre-tax from one's paycheck). Once monies are transmitted to the NEFP, participants are provided with ten investment options to invest their individual account.

As of June 30, 2009, these investment options included the following investment categories: 1) Stable Value; 2) Fixed Income; 3) Equity Index; 4) Large Cap Growth; 5) Large Cap Value; 6) Mid-Cap Growth; 7) Mid Cap Value; 8) Small Cap Growth; 9) Small Cap Value; and 10) International. The NEFP charges a quarterly administrative fee of \$12.00.

Upon approval by NEFP administrators, eligible participants will be notified when participation can begin, along with the necessary documents to start participation.

## Defined Benefit Plan

Trustees to Local 595's Defined Benefit Pension Plan made a number of changes last year due to the Plan's funding status, a result of the serious financial losses in 2008. These changes included a portion of pension contributions being considered non-earning contributions.

Based upon the unaudited investment returns of the Pension Plan in 2009 it appears that the Pension Plan will be in the Green Zone for the Plan Year ending December 31, 2009.

As a result, additional non-earning contributions may not be needed for 2010. However, the non-earning portion of the contribution enacted in 2009, as well as the benefit changes effective January 1, 2010, will remain in place.

## Alameda JATC

*Welcome Alameda County Mayors!*

On December 9, our JATC hosted the Alameda County Mayors Conference for the second time at our San Leandro Training Center. Trustees and JATC staff greeted mayors, vice-mayors and city managers from cities throughout the county.

This was an important opportunity to show our program and our contributions to the decision makers for cities in our East Bay.

Attending this year's event were Vice Mayor Farid Javandel from Albany, Mayor Tim Sbranti from Dublin, Mayor Ruth Atkin from Emeryville, Mayor Mike Sweeney from Hayward, Mayor David Smith from Newark, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman from Pleasanton, Mayor



*The JATC hosted the Alameda County Mayors Conference on December 9, 2009.*

returning as the 6th bracket instructor and Mel Switzer overseeing the 7th bracket class. Brackets 8, 9, and 10 will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings with the first class night having taken place on January 20, 2010.

Paul Marsaglia, Nick Gigliotti and Chris Hillyer return as 8th bracket instructors. The 9th bracket instructors are Cary Matsumura, Bill Kenney and Kurt Dembrowicz. Bob Wright, Joe Buhowsky, Paul Rodgers and Matt Maloon will once again be serving as 10th bracket instructors.

### JW Classes

The Journeyman class schedule for the Spring 2010 semester was distributed to all 595 journeymen members in late December. We have seen a drop off in enrollments as a result of the completion of the first 3-year cycle for Electrician Certification renewal. Nevertheless, there is still considerable interest being shown by many members to take advantage of upgrading their skills and knowledge during this economic downturn. For information on Continuing

Education classes please contact our office at 510-351-5282 ext. 0 or visit our website at [www.595jadc.org](http://www.595jadc.org).

### Employment

The work picture has seen some improvement, although we still have over 20 apprentices not working at this time.

Encouraging news about the start of new projects such as Solyndra and various hospitals gives us hope for the future. In addition, Hayward Unified School District will begin work on the renovation/rebuilds of one middle school and four elementary schools in June.

As always, the program is extremely grateful to all IBEW journeymen and journeymen for providing valuable and necessary training opportunities for our apprentices.

*- Byron Benton, Training Director*



*Apprentice Gagan Bahad and JW Cynthia Montero at the Washington Hospital project in Fremont*

Mark Green from Union City, Mayor Tony Santos from San Leandro and Vice Mayor Joyce Starosciak from San Leandro.

### Spring Semester Begins

The Spring 2010 school semester officially began on Tuesday, January 19, 2010. Brackets 4, 5, 6, 7 will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings, starting on January 19, 2010.

Bill Mattson and Jim Guthrie along with Donald Dones will once again be teaching the 4th and 5th bracket classes with Dan Holgate



*Apprentice Mark Kreitzer at Las Positas College Center for the Arts*

## Stockton JATC

Greetings from 595East JATC!

On the evening of December 14th it was eat, drink and be merry as Santa visited the Stockton Training Center, socializing with the apprentices, listening to the children's wish list and giving away presents to the youngsters at the annual Stockton JATC Christmas party. By the looks on everyone's face it was a good evening to end a long fall semester and enter into the Christmas vacation.

I would like to congratulate Joanne Musto on her recent retirement. Joanne has worked for the IBEW Local 595 (591) for 20 years and for the Stockton JATC for over 15 years. Joanne is one of the most dedicated and respected employees in our industry. She has always been there for Local 595's leadership, our NECA contractors, the members and especially for the apprentices, giving advice, answering questions, and in one way or other keeping them on the straight and narrow. Although we will miss her she has committed to return to the Training Center on Fridays to help us out.

I would also like to welcome Kim Blades to the Stockton facility. Kim worked for over 12 years at the Dublin

Union Office and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with her making the transition between Joanne and her very seamless. We are very fortunate to have Kim onboard!!

It is my unfortunate duty to report the work picture in San Joaquin & Calaveras counties is looking pretty dim at the present time. As of January 37% of the apprentices are on the out of work list and several of the apprentices still employed are missing time. Due to the serious economic situation the committee has decided to suspend taking apprentice applications until the work situation improves. I have been in contact with most all of the contractors, both local and out of town working in the Stockton area and some have indicated they would be putting in calls in the near future. For the most part it looks like a sparse first and second quarter.

The spring semester has started and we are happy to have our apprentices back in class. With the work situation the JATC committee was unable to indenture a first year apprentice class last year but we are hoping after gradu-



*Thank you and Happy Retirement Joanne!*

ation employment will have improved and we will start to bring some new applicants in.

C.E. class schedules have been mailed and we are accepting phone registration starting January 20th. The JATC has had to reduce the amount of classes due to budget constraints but we still have a variety of classes available to our members to meet the state requirement of 32 hours for recertification. The Stockton JATC is also looking at putting on some Energy Management classes in the near future. For those who are interested please contact Kim or Dave at the Stockton Training Center to register or ask question: (209) 462-0751.

*- Dave Brooks, Training Director*

## Medical Screening Program for DOE Lab Workers

If you worked at the Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore or Sandia National Labs, you may be eligible for a free medical screening program financed by the Energy Department.

595 Rep Tom Mullarkey reports his experience:

"As an electrician working in Local 595 for 36 years I have spent at least six of those years working for various electrical contractors at these three facilities. I called and set up an appointment and was contacted by Elisa Rossetti, the program manager for Boston University School of Public

Health who has partnered with UCSF to run this medical monitoring and screening program. She explained that this is free testing funded by the Department of Energy and it is to evaluate whether or not you were exposed to any hazardous materials including asbestos, silica, radiation, excessive noise, beryllium, solvents, lead, lasers, and other chemical and physical hazards while working at the three facilities.

"My 90 minute medical screening appointment consisted of a thorough physical, including hearing, breathing, vision and blood testing, a chest x-ray, and included an interview with the physician about any specific concerns related to my work at the three laboratories.

"I was given a printout of some of

the immediate results and was mailed a complete evaluation of my blood work and testing a couple of weeks later.



*Tom says, "Get tested!"*

"The program is totally voluntary and results will not be shared with anyone without written permission. I would recommend the free testing for anyone that is a former Laboratory contract worker and has concerns about their exposure during their time at the sites. For further information please call toll free at 1-866-460-0628 or email at buscreen@bu.edu"

## Health and Welfare Update

A full house of actives, retirees and spouses attended our annual Benefits Fair at the Union Hall on Saturday, January 9th. Representatives from all of our service providers as well as the plans administrator, Credit Union and Local 595's Retirees Club attended. Presentations were given by both our Pension and Health & Welfare professionals on the status of the plans, a recap of the past year and what to expect in 2010.

Jim Rhein, our consultant on the H&W side explained about the difficulties we've been having due to the low number of hours worked by the membership in 2009. We are seeing more people struggle to maintain coverage because of depleted dollar banks and unsteady employment. This, in addition to our increased provider rates that went into effect on February 1st has resulted in the fund going from four months reserves and growing, to a situation that expects to see us dipping into our reserves to pay our bills for a few months until the work picture improves.

In spite of this news the trustees are confident that our great H&W plan will

continue to provide our actives, retirees, and their families with the health coverage they need and deserve.

For any of our members that have lost coverage and have children that need coverage:

Kaiser Permanente offers a plan that provides coverage for eligible children under the age of 19 that are not eligible for MediCal, Healthy Families or California Kids and whose parents are in the allowable income ranges. You do not have to be a Kaiser member to take advantage of this. It is called the Kaiser Permanente Child Health Plan and for more information or an enrollment kit please call the hall for application forms.

We are happy to report that Congress voted on December 19th to allow eligible workers to receive subsidized Cobra premiums for up to 15 months. It had previously been 9 months and was running out for many members. The decision also extended the cutoff date for



595 members and families attended the Jan. 9 Benefits Fair

eligibility for the Cobra subsidy for 2 additional months, to February 28th, 2010. We have a number of our members who are benefitting from this stimulus subsidy and paying 35% of the cost instead of 50% and it is also assisting our H&W general fund to cope with costs by reimbursing the fund for 65% of the monthly Cobra premium. The fund previously was paying a subsidy of 50% of the self pay costs for our out of work members that had exhausted their options for coverage. President Obama signed this important workers relief bill and we want to express our appreciation for his support.

- Tom Mullarkey, Trustee

## When Working Out of 595's Jurisdiction...

When travelling to other jurisdictions, make sure you come into the hall and sign up on the ERTS program. This will ensure that benefit payments will be sent back to your Local 595 pension and health and welfare programs.

If you sign reciprocity to have your benefits sent back to Local 595, the contractor that you are working for will deduct the amount for the Health & Welfare contribution that is charged for that local and send it to their administrator. It will then be processed and sent to Zenith Administrators on your behalf. We have been told by Zenith that this process can take some time and has created problems for some of our members. If you are working out of town and are concerned about your Health & Welfare

eligibility please call Kelly Lynch at Zenith Administrators and let her know of your situation: (415) 536-8216.

In addition to the time lag there can be a considerable difference between the H&W contribution in the Local you've traveled to and Local 595's contribution. The contractor's obligation is to send the amount that is charged in the jurisdiction where the work is being performed. This also has created problems for our members who don't realize that each month that they work out of county they are possibly depleting their dollar bank to make up the difference between the money sent and the AMPC (Actual Monthly Plan Cost). If there isn't enough money in the member's dollar bank to cover the AMPC, members can fall out of coverage. If you think you are in this situation please contact Kelly and keep on top of it.

## Vacation and dues reminders:

In some cases when our members travel to other jurisdictions to work there is no vacation money being deducted from their check because there is no vacation account in that local. If you are signed up for dues check off, a situation can arise that when it is time for your annual International dues to be paid from your vacation account, it may not have sufficient funds in the account to cover your dues. In this case you will be dropped from membership and sometimes without your knowledge. It is the member's responsibility to keep their dues current. The IBEW Constitution clearly states that members are not entitled to notice from the union office in advance or when they are in arrears. If you think you might be in this situation please contact our office immediately. Call Kat at (925) 556-0595.



### 595 Members at Work!

Clockwise, upper left: Guillermo Cervantes, Las Positas College; Dave Stage, Solyndra project; Dale Ashby, I House housing project; Darius Dunn, Sr., Washington Hospital; Chris Senft and John Small, I House housing project; Rich Ury, Athletic Center, UC Berkeley; Daniel Davila, Ed Roberts Campus; Steven Suplick and Ken Pace, U.C. Berkeley; Jeff Bui, Valley Care Hospital. - Tom Mullarkey photos



### Congratulations to the Proud Parents of Our Newest 595 Additions!

Jason and Sarah Houston are the proud parents of Makiyah Jiselle Houston, born November 8, 2009

Samir and Guisella Kharufeh are the proud parents of Ali Samir Kharufeh, born December 18, 2009

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

Cecil Furr, passed in November 2009, 90 years old and a member for 69 years.

Alfred C. Marsh, passed on November 27, 2009, 91 years old and a member for 68 years.

Donald F. Braber, passed on December 3, 2009, 80 years old and a member for 56 years.

Floyd Bird, passed on December 12, 2009, 78 years old and member for 52 years.

Edward J. Woycheshin passed on January 7, 2010, 51 years old and a member for 13 years.

## ACLU Defends Free Speech for NBC Workers and IBEW

In late October last year, lawyers for criminally indicted NBC General Contractor owner Monica Ung filed motions to impose a gag order on Local 595 members as well as former workers of NBC.

"Trying to gag 2,000 members and former NBC workers is an outrage," argued 595 attorney Philip Monrad. "This attempt by Monica Ung and her attorneys to chill these members' freedom of speech is ludicrous. They clearly want to hide the truth from the public."

Intervening on behalf of the NBC workers and Local 595 was the American Civil Liberties Union, which filed an unsolicited *amicus* brief. ACLU lawyers Alan Schlosser and Ajay Kundaria argued that the gag order effort showed a "shocking disregard for First Amendment values" and would "set a dangerous precedent for the suppression of free speech."

Faced with stinging criticism in legal circles, Ung's lawyers quietly dropped the gag order effort.



## Safety First = Family First

NECA/IBEW Joint Safety Committee  
595 Safety Calendar

Drawn by: Mini Members

### Safety Calendar Now Available!

The NECA/IBEW Joint Safety Committee published a 2010 calendar featuring artwork by 595's youngsters! The calendar is available at no cost to members and contractors, thanks to the generosity of the Electrical Contractors Trust, NorCal NECA, Local 595 and Milwaukee Electric Tool. Pick up your calendar at the Hall or the Training Center and Work Safe!



**Inside Wiremen and Apprentices!**  
Do you have your 2010 Dues Receipt? If not, call  
Kat at the Hall: (925) 556-0595

### Suspension of Re-Sign Day

Beginning January 1, 2010, Re-Sign Day is suspended for the months of January, February and March of 2010. Re-Sign Day resumes Monday, April 5, 2010. This policy affects all Available-For-Work lists (Book 1, 2, 3 and 4) for all classifications (Inside Wireman and Sound and Communication) for Alameda, Calaveras and San Joaquin Counties.

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