

The 595 Connection



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

Vol. 18 Issue 2
March - April 2010

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Spring Has Arrived!

I am writing this report on the first day of Spring, and I want to wish all of our members and their families a very hopeful beginning to the rest of 2010.

Good news: Work is picking up as some of the Obama economic stimulus efforts get underway. Many members have been dispatched to the Solyndra project in Fremont, where a new photovoltaic manufacturing plant is being constructed with the help of an Energy Department guaranteed loan of \$535 million. Many other projects are getting underway, and our Book 1 is dipping under 200, for the first time in over a year.

Good news: Our 595 West apprentices are all working and we have even been able to help our sister Local 6 by putting some of their apprentices to work. When our program was hit with high unemployment five years ago, Local 6 and surrounding locals helped put our apprentices to work, and we are now



Local 595 members working for Sprig Electric at one of the Solyndra sites in Fremont. Another site is also underway with Rosendin Electric.

able to return that act of solidarity.

Good news: We are making significant headway on new project labor agreements for construction

projects involving power plants and public works projects, with numerous agencies and governmental bodies. Andreas Cluver, the new head of our Alameda Building Trades Council, is spearheading this effort and we are positive about progress in this area.

McNerney Support for Power Plant Project

We recently met with Congressman Jerry McNerney, asking for his support for a power plant

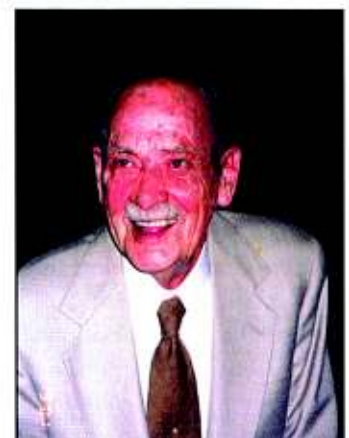
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Bert J. Young - An Appreciation

Dave Brooks
Stockton JATC Training Director

It is with deep sadness that I must report the passing of Mr. Bert J. Young on February 21, 2010.

Bert was an icon of our electrical industry in the San Joaquin and Calaveras area, and I would like to pass on some of his legacy.



Bert Young

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ATTEND YOUR LOCAL UNION MEETINGS

Business Manager Report...

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conversion project in Tracy. We explained that this project would convert an existing peaker plant from an older, less efficient and higher polluting technology to a more modern facility, doubling the plant's capacity, lowering pollution emissions and saving 2,300 acre feet of water annually.

Our San Joaquin jurisdiction suffers from an unemployment rate exceeding 20 percent, and this project would create 400 construction jobs. Our members worked on this plant when it was built seven years ago, and the conversion proposed by GWF Energy would be covered by a State Building Trades CURE Project Labor Agreement.

On March 12, Congressman McNerney issued a strong letter of support for this project, noting that GWF Energy would also be investing \$319,000.00 in local air quality projects, and that 30 jobs would be created following the construction work. We are very hopeful that the project, now before California's Public Utilities Commission, will soon get approval, and that our members can start working on this project as early as this fall.

Challenges

Tempering our hope and optimism are the numerous challenges that we are forced to confront. National unemployment continues at record levels, and California's unemployment is over 12 percent.

In our own back yard, thousands of our fellow workers and their families are being hard hit with the closing of the Toyota plant in Fremont. I served on California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer's NUMMI Blue Ribbon Commission, and our study showed that up to 25,000 California workers would lose their jobs, resulting in an economic impact of \$2.3 billion in the coming 10 years. The findings of the commission were published in a white paper: "Commitment is a Two-Way Street: Toyota, California and NUMMI" which can be viewed at: <http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/nummi/report.pdf>

One of the findings of the commission: GM's departure from the NUMMI joint venture was insufficient cause for the closing of the plant. Only 15% of the plant's production in the past 5 years was for GM. The commission found that there are many compelling business reasons why it was in Toyota's interests to keep production at NUMMI. It is deeply troubling that Toyota will be shipping production to Texas and Mexico, where workers do not have the benefit of union representation.

IBEW Market Advancement Initiative

Recently, International President Edwin Hill released a sobering assessment of our IBEW's membership numbers, as well as our union's presence in different construction markets. His message, and his challenge, was for every IBEW Local nationwide to grow its organizing efforts to overcome a serious erosion of our union's strength and influence.

One of the organizing tools mandated for every local to

utilize are new classifications and wage rates that will go after work that the IBEW no longer does, or has very little market share. These new classifications, known as the Construction Electrician (CE) and the Construction Wireman (CW), will be implemented nationwide.



595 Retirees Jon Lockwood and John Disken Electrician (CE) joined the picketline for locked out Castlewood workers on March 21. Solidarity Now! Construction Wireman (CW), will be implemented nationwide.

Members may have heard about this new effort, and I am inviting every Local 595 member to our April 8 General Membership meeting. Your Local 595 leadership has had discussions on this new effort, and our International Representative Greg Teeple will be presenting the IBEW's Market Advancement Initiative at this meeting.

Another important upcoming meeting: On Thursday, April 29, a Special Call meeting will be held at Carpenters Local 713, 1050 Mattox Road, in Hayward, 6 PM, to discuss the \$3.00 in new monies due June 1, 2010, for all members working under, or eligible to work under, the Inside Construction Agreement for Alameda County.

Stonger, Working Together,

Victor Uno
Business Manager



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- David Thoni - Vice President
- Earl Hampton - Recording Secretary
- Brian Stewart - Treasurer

Executive Board

- Greg Bonato - Juan Guerrero - Bridget Hall
- Sean Kyle - Ron Pedro - Aaron Stagg

Organizing Report

IBEW 595 welcomes Powerco Electric Corp. who recently became signatory with us. This "traveling" Southern California contractor will be doing the temporary power for the upcoming Caldecott Tunnel project.

Mark your calendar: There will be a COMET Class held at the Alameda JATC on May 3rd from 5 to 8pm. Contact the hall in order to register.

595 Green: The Bay Area Green Business Program is coordinated by the Association of Bay Area Governments, which represents the region's nine counties and 101 cities. After satisfying a rather extensive checklist of requirements, IBEW 595 has been certified as a Bay Area Green Business. Along with environmental reasons, this effort was completed in order to help promote IBEW 595 in the growing markets of energy efficiency, building automation & lighting controls, and photovoltaics.

San Joaquin/Calaveras

For the East, Sam Kharufeh reports that we continue our efforts with NCECI to monitor public works jobs in the jurisdiction. Attending pre-bids and bid openings gives us an opportunity to

interact with electrical contractors who are bidding work in the area. We need the help of the membership to monitor the private sector. If you see a job site in your neighborhood or

near a job you are on, give us a call so we can make contact with the unrepresented electricians and business owners.

We are looking at creative ways to use technology to organize. Social networking sites like twitter and facebook are being used by locals across the United States to run campaigns and make contact with unrepresented workers in our trade. IBEW 595 Organizers attended the 9th district organizing conference last month, workshops included- "Basic labor law training", "using technology to organize", "top down organizing", "top down role playing exercises", and "strategic salting". These trainings have proven to be very valuable and useful in our organizing efforts. If you have any suggestions on



New 595 members were sworn in at the March 11 general membership meeting. Welcome to 595!

using technology as an organizing tool or any other ideas, please share! Remember we are all "stronger working together"!

We will be doing a COMET, (Construction Organizing Membership Education Training), at the JATC here in Stockton on May 12, 2010 from 5-8pm. International Representative Greg Boyd will be on hand to assist with the class. JW's who have not taken COMET or those that need a refresher are encouraged to attend. Call the JATC if you would like to sign up as space is limited. This class will count for continuing education credits towards re-certification.

- Matt Maloon, Organizing Director

What is the Market Advancement Initiative?

Many 595 "Old Timers" remember the "good old days", when the dispatch hall had lists of jobs ranging from residential trim calls, trouble-truck work, remodels at the malls, gas station and many other calls.

In the "good old days", Local 595 had a 36 hour work week, later an "off Friday" every other week. The union worked hard to get members work, but a growing non-union sector gained a foothold and established their own apprenticeship programs, competing and take more and more from IBEW signatory contractors.

Looking at the work that we used to do, and the work that we no longer do, tells us that we need put some new tools in our IBEW organizing belt. Our current course, where we see our participation in some markets declin-



Across from 595's Hall, a large commercial complex was built without any union workers.

ing, is not acceptable.

IBEW President Edwin Hill has mandated that every IBEW Local adopt new classifications and wages to organize in the construction marketplace. The program is known as the Market Advancement Initiative. The current classification of Inside Wireman and Inside Apprentice will

continue to be the foundation of our construction locals, and the work that we currently do under project labor agreements, public works, and private works that we control, will not be affected. However in those areas where we do not have any market share, new classifications of Construction Electrician (CE) and Construction Wireman (CW) have been mandated for all IBEW Locals to institute and utilize for organizing purposes.

We are now tasked by our International to organize new members, and to put our current members to work.

We have an important meeting on this program at our April 8 General Membership meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

Alameda JATC

The work picture has picked up considerably for our program. At the present time all available Alameda County Electrical JATC apprentices are working. As we enter into spring, additional employment opportunities



Apprentice Michael Cotroneo at the Altenheim project in Oakland

are on the horizon. Our hope is that this trend will continue through the remainder of 2010 and into 2011, resulting in increased work hours for JW's and apprentices alike.

Continuing Education

With the first 3-year cycle for State Certification renewal having come to a close, many IBEW 595 JW's continue to upgrade their skills, knowledge and abilities. Continuing Education (CE) classes for the Spring 2010 school semester remain well attended at the San Leandro Training Center. As of March 8, 2010, the program has received 185 registrations for classes that will also count towards the California State requirement of 32 hours of continuing education for re-certification in 2012.



JATC Instructor and Del Monte Electric foreman Donald Dones (center) with apprentices Racheal Bryan and Ken Quigley at the Castro Valley library project.

Please contact the program at 510.351.5282 ext. 0, as many interesting and valuable CE classes have space available.

- Byron Benton, Training Director

Compliance Update - NCECI

The Northern California Electrical Construction Industry (NCECI) is a project funded by five IBEW and NECA Labor-Management Cooperation Committees in Northern California. Compliance officers of the NCECI monitor and enforce prevailing wage laws on projects, and their efforts assisted in turning \$8.9 million dollars in public works projects from non-responsive contractors to responsive contractors. Many IBEW signatory contractors and IBEW members have benefitted from NCECI's efforts.

In 2009, NCECI monitored 1,029 projects with an estimated value of \$100 million of electrical and sound and communications work. Over 1,290 site visits were conducted and 570 workers were interviewed. Some 2,500 informational packets were distributed to awarding agencies, contractors, workers and their families.

For Alameda, San Joaquin and Calaveras counties, NCECI reported the following:

- American Alarm Company: California's State Department of

Industrial Relations ordered the company to pay a \$15,813.00 fine for failure to pay proper prevailing wages and overtime.

- A-Tec Electric: Ordered to pay a civil citation of \$10,300.00 by the DAS for failing to employ indentured apprentices at Patterson High School.

- All City Electric: NCECI has filed a wage claim of \$232,363.00 for workers who were not paid the proper wages in Alameda County.

- Hi-Country Electric: Ordered to pay \$7,000.00 in back wages and civil penalties.

- Diversified Electric: Ordered to pay \$185,690.00 in back wages for failure to pay prevailing wages.

- National Electric: Ordered to pay \$15,459.00 in back wages and penalties;

- Emard Electric: Must pay \$178,841.00 for failing to pay prevailing wages, underpayment of overtime, shift and misclassification.

- Decotech Systems: NCECI filed a report to the California State License



Serving 595 Members and Families!

Hazel Law, Accounting Administrator, does critical work for Local 595's finances and accounting. Above, she hangs her Notary Public license with help from her assistant, Jason Lingenfelter. Hazel values education and recently received her Master's in Business Administration! Jason is on track to graduate with a B.A. degree in May.

Board (CSLB) due to the use of uncertified electricians, and monies owed to workers of \$194,745.81.

NCECI works hard enforcing prevailing wage laws. During a time when many unscrupulous contractors are trying to cheat workers and taxpayers, NCECI's compliance work is important for the electrical construction industry.



Left to right: Susan Gagetta and Clinton Castle work on new lighting trainer; Den Prom on scissor lift; Pete Arbos and Jeri Santiago.

Stockton JATC

Greetings from 595East JATC!

The Stockton JATC is busy with apprentice and journeyman classes in session. The journeyman classes have slowed substantially and many classes have had to be cancelled due to minimum class size requirements.

On a more positive note the apprentice employment has improved substantially since the beginning of the month there was twenty two apprentices out of work and many in the shops were missing time but as of March 18th

there are two apprentices out of work and most all of the apprentices in the shops are working. We will be graduating sixteen apprentices in June and as we did not indenture any new apprentices in 2009 there is every reason to believe a new class will be starting at some point this year.

The new lighting control lab is coming along and should be in operation by mid April. We are accepting registration by phone: (209) 462-0751

- Dave Brooks, Training Director

Bert Young...

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Mr. Young was born in Livermore, California where his family owned a ranch and creamery in the 1920s and 1930s. Bert and his brothers supported themselves by contracting out as electricians. They set poles, strung line and wired isolated ranches in the eastern part of Alameda County. Bert was so skilled in this work, by the time he graduated from high school in 1934 he was already an accomplished electrician.

Bert's first job out of high school was as a county fireman in Livermore and later went to work at an armaments fuse works factory in Pleasanton. This was during a time of the Great Depression, when jobs were scarce and hard to come by. Bert believed in organizing his fellow workers into a union, and was even fired for his efforts. He strongly supported unions throughout his life.

In 1940 Bert went to work as an electrician in the Kaiser Shipyards, where the IBEW represented marine electricians. He became frustrated with the confusion

and inefficiency of the process and he re-did the wiring plans which brought him to the attention of Kaiser's management. Bert was put to work training electricians, first directly for Kaiser and then in Oakland at what is now Laney College.

Even while helping the war effort by training electricians, Bert felt he was not doing enough so in 1942 he joined a brand new outfit, the U.S. Navy Seabees. He went on active duty in 1943 and served in the 91st Seabee battalion on New Guinea and later in the Philippines.

Bert received his education from Fresno State and U.C. Berkeley and in 1947 he moved to Stockton with his wife, teaching at Stockton High School and then Stockton College which later became Delta College. Bert taught in Stockton from 1947 until 1979 where he was a member of the teachers association and president of the faculty senate at Delta College.

Mr. Fred Lyman and Mr. Bert Young actually started teaching the area apprenticeship program in 1946 and on October 1, 1954, eight years later, the San Joaquin & Calaveras Electrical JATC became one of the first apprenticeships approved by

California's Department of Apprenticeship Standards. Apprentices in the San Joaquin and Calaveras Electrical JATC were very well trained as over 90 per cent of all apprentices were graduates of Bert's two year Electrical Technology program at Delta before they could become an IBEW 591 apprentice.

Bert was both Delta and apprenticeship instructor until 1978 when he retired from Delta after 32 years of service. Bert then became the Apprenticeship Coordinator for the next 22 years, retiring in June of 2000. Bert spent 54 years of his life devoted to teaching and the apprenticeship and is one of the most respected people in our industry. Mr. Young was a mentor to many journeymen and will be remembered by all of us in the electrical industry.

In deep appreciation for his history of service, the San Joaquin and Calaveras Counties Electrical JATC decided to rename the outstanding apprentice award the Bert J. Young award. In addition, the San Joaquin and Calaveras Counties LMCT donated \$1000 to the Thomas J. Sweeney scholarship in memory of Mr. Young.

House Passes Historic Health Care Bill

The House of Representatives made history on March 22 with its vote to renovate America's health care system – extending coverage to millions of working families and ending abusive insurance industry practices.

Taking on a multimillion dollar campaign funded by big insurance companies to kill the bill, the House voted 219-212 to make health care reform a reality.

Said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill:

"This bill is a big first step on the road toward reforming our health care system so it works for everyone. Since the days of Harry Truman, comprehensive health reform has been a top priority for the labor movement. Last

night Congress and President Obama made history by taking tough action against the insurance industry and making affordable and comprehensive health care coverage available for millions of working Americans."

As reported on the AFL-CIO Blog, the bill will:

- Immediately stop greed-driven insurance company abuses such as denying care based on pre-existing conditions
- Toughen penalties on employers that try to run from their responsibilities
- Put the burden of paying for health care where it belongs—on the wealthy
- Get life-saving health coverage to 30 million more people and improve coverage for millions more
- Reduce prescription drug costs for seniors and save money for small



businesses.

The House bill contains most of the main features of the Senate version, which was passed with a supermajority of 60 senators on Christmas Eve.

The House also passed a reconciliation bill that contains improvements to the original Senate version of the bill. The reconciliation bill now moves on to the Senate for a vote.

Vacation Trust Notice

The following members may be entitled to a payment from their vacation accounts. If you are one of the members listed, please contact Kelly Lynch at Zenith Administrators, (888) 512-5863

2001-2005

Jacobson, Peter
Williamson, James
Corcova, Michael
Delgado, Enrique
Favenir, Nelson
Green, Robert
Jancek, Tom
Keeth Jr., Richard
Mellen, Leland
Middleton, Thomas
Montez, J
Newcomb, Richard
Palmer, James
Picard, Masson
Rodriguez, John
Sandler, Joel
Solorio, Conrado
Solorio, Rafael
Stewart, Harold
Sullivan, Michael
Weatherspoon, Ralph
Wilkinson, James

Winfrey, S
Sullivan, Michael
Bulik, Richard
Creek, William
Dominic, Carl A
Guerrero, Jose
Johnson, Jay
Mamaug, Gil
Marr, Michael
Sigl, Robert
Chiasson, Laurent
Dizon, Arnold
Doell, Tim
Jennings, Thomas
Miller, Brett
Tongul, Jesus
Moody, Todd
Miller, Lenard
Guillena, Bonifacio
Correa, Daniel
Dike, Randall
Gray, Eric
Johnson III, Walter

Park, Man Sung
Washington, Antonio

2007

Steven Pymm
Michael Tilley
John Barber
M Baustista
John Barber
Sean Callan
Robert Chon
Coleman
M Collins
J Conley
Elio Corral
Tony Cortez
James Demassey
Randall Dike
D Elkins
D Greene
Kim Hancock
Kenneth Hebert
Denver Jones
J Karssen
Mark Knisley
Josh Levine
Ed Low
J Mack
F Maggiolo
E McFarlane
Rafael Medina
Randolph Meza
Fryne Nelson
James O'Connor

Adalberto Padilla
Daniel Post
F Re
Dustin Rubio
Long To
Jose Vasquez
James Ventresco
F Villa
Jhan P Wilson

2008

Daniel Davila
Jason Painter
April Tillery
Patrick Carroll
Steven Aragon
Bradley Ballard
Paul Bowles
Robert Chon
Rodolfo Coaquira
Michael Conti
Randall Dike
Alfred Flatow
Armondo Gonzalez
Charlie Lape
Austen Lee
Paul Mesa
Shane Miller
Michael Morgan
D O'Day
Patrick Ramirez
Juan Rodriguez
Long To
E Williams

B Zeh
Jason Agena
David Anderson
Steven Boyd
James Brown
Chris Brunkhorst
T Carranza
Jose Chavarria
B Cleveland
Fisher Keids
J Gallegos
Omero Gonzales
James Guerrero
Jason Hale
P Herrera
Kyle Hirayama
Jo Ann Howell
Robert Hunt
Bruce Jones
Bradley Letak
Michael Mardrid
George Mccully
Greg Nelson
Juan Olivares
Robert Paretti
Dennis Parle
Jon Patrick
Scott Pfeiffer
Tony Rosa
Joseph Sands
Chris Santi
Kevin Southhall
Timothy Taylor

Retirees Report

Our 595 retirees club celebrated St. Patrick's Day on March 12, a little early, but it didn't hurt a thing. Our regular luncheon on the second Friday of each month might have been some sort of a record, with 105 in attendance. We had corned beef and cabbage, filet of sole, and all the trimmings, plus an Irish tenor, O'Ramirez.

Some of the folks attending had just gotten back from a snow train trip to Reno for three days, perfect timing, because it snowed as advertised. One of the trips for summer is a

big one. It will include 4th of July fireworks in Humboldt Bay, a jet boat down the Rogue River in Oregon, and culminating with a stay in Ashland and a play at the Shakespeare Festival.

Let us not forget that we need more retiree members to keep the club going in style. Contact Linda Bratset, our Superwoman treasurer, trip coordinator, and newsletter editor, to join. She can be reached at (510)357-4129, or on email at lbratset@yahoo.com.

Now is a perfect time to join!

*Les Bridge, President
595 Retirees Club*



Administration Change for 595

Beginning May 1, 2010, administration for Local 595 benefit plans will change from Zenith Administrators to BeneSys Inc. Key personnel, such as Kelly Lynch, above, will stay at 595's offices to assist members. Maria Carrillo, who oversaw 595 plans for Zenith, will also transition to BeneSys so as to continue service for 595 members. Kelly, above, helps former 595 President LouAnn McCune who retires on April 1. Congratulations to Madam President and her husband (and 595 retiree) Lowell Lull!

Thomas J. Sweeney Scholarship Announcement for 2010

The East Bay Community Foundation -Thomas J. Sweeney Scholarship Fund was established to honor the memory and contributions of Tom Sweeney. Under his leadership, Local 595 established pension programs and health and welfare benefit plans that 595 members enjoy today.

For 2010, there will be 20 grants awarded to successful applicants. Ten grants of \$1,000.00 each will be for graduating high school students who have been accepted at a college or university. Ten grants of \$500.00 will be for students currently enrolled in a secondary educational institution, including a California state-approved apprenticeship program.



Thomas J. Sweeney

4. The 2010 financial grants will go to applicants with the highest cumulative academic reports.

This application and the required attachments must be complete and postmarked on or before May 29, 2010. A selection committee will review the applications. The East Bay Community Foundation will notify the recipients on or before July 1, 2010. Application packages can be obtained from Local 595's Hall at 6250 Village Parkway in Dublin, the electrical apprenticeship programs or downloaded from Local 595's website: www.ibew595.org.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Member or dependent of a member of IBEW Local 595 accepted and/or enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution, including a state-approved apprenticeship program.
2. Possess a 3.5 GPA or an academic average of 95% or higher.
3. If enrolled in an apprenticeship program, a cumulative on-the-job evaluation of 90% or higher in addition to an academic average of 95% or higher.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

1. School administrator or teacher recommendation.
2. Acceptance to a college or university; or current enrollment in a post-secondary educational institution.
3. Membership or dependent status of the IBEW Local 595.

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

- Patrick Morrison, passed on January 17, 2010,
63 years old and a member for 41 years.*
- Nicholas Livermore passed on February 7, 2010,
71 years old and a member for 38 years.*
- Sidney W. Smith passed on February 12, 2010,
70 years old and a member for 49 years.*
- Bertrand "Bert" Young passed on February 21,
2010, 94 years old and a member for 69 years.*
- Sinclair Hague, Jr., passed on March 1, 2010,
86 years old and a member for 64 years.*

Apologies to the Brabec family and friends for the misspelling of Donald F. Brabec's name in the January - February Newsletter.

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

Important Member Notices!

Re-Sign Day: Monday, April 5, 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. Re-sign by 12 noon or you will be removed from the book.

Blood Drive: Monday, April 5, 2010

Local 595 is hosting a Red Cross blood drive at the Dublin Hall, Monday, April 5, from 10 AM until 4 PM. Call the Hall to schedule your life-saving appointment!

**General Membership Meeting
Thursday April 8, 2010, 6 PM**

Two special orders of business: A presentation by I.O. Rep. Greg Teeple on the IBEW's Market Advancement Initiative and a discussion on the \$3.00 in new monies due June 1, 2010, under the Alameda County Inside Construction Agreement

Special Call Meeting April 29, 6 PM

For all members working or able to work under the Alameda County Inside Construction Agreement, allocation of \$3.00 in new monies will be discussed and acted upon. This meeting is at Carpenters Local 713, 1050 Mattox Rd., in Hayward.

A current dues receipt must be presented!



On January 27, 2010, AgeSong, a family-run group of assisted-living senior communities held a grand opening of its Bayside Park complex in Emeryville. The 116,366 square-foot residential complex was built with the assistance of the National Electrical Benefit Fund (NEBF), a pension benefit plan of the IBEW and NECA. Members working for Design Electric wired the new facility. Above, left to right, Mike Price, Bob Sampson, Emeryville city council member and NECA contractor Kurt Brinkman, NEBF representative Ryan Whittaker, Steve Farro and Business Manager Uno.

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PRESORTED STANDARD
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Dublin, CA 94568

