



Great Times at 595 Retiree Picnic

Local 595's Retiree Club held their annual summer picnic at Kennedy Park in Hayward on August 8th. Jeannie Morris, former Retiree Club president, was able to attend. Les Bridge and Tom Curran give Jeannie a warm welcome and introduction before handing her the mike.



595 members at Oakland's Chabot Elementary School successfully finish a project under the district's Project Labor Agreement with the Alameda County Building Trades Council. Many school projects were completed under very tight schedules.

Important Reminders...

- Register to Vote by October 20!
- General Elections are Tuesday, November 4th.
- If you are on state disability, contact

the union and talk to Kim Blades. You may have union benefits, depending on the agreement that you work under.

- There are no Vacation withdrawals

during the month of November.

- If you are working out of Alameda County, check your Health & Welfare dollar bank regularly to verify reciprocity deposits are being made.

WWW.IBEW595.ORG

Local 595 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

The 595 Connection



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6250 Village Parkway, Dublin CA 94568-3004

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BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

This is 595's last Newsletter before our nation's crucial November 4 General Election. I want to give a message of urgency and hope as we head into the final weeks of what has been a tumultuous process to choose our next President.

There are two clear choices for our nation's direction that union members have: Continue on the same road that we have been on for the past eight years, or choose a new direction for our country.

Working people have had a tough eight years under the Bush Administration. The record budget surpluses that were generated under the Clinton Administration have been squandered; good paying jobs have been off-shored and out-sourced; working families are now earning less in real dollars; record numbers of families have no health insurance; the income gap between the wealthy elite and



595 members at Kaiser's Medical Office Building project in Oakland. Hospital work is expected to employ many union construction workers in the coming years.

the middle class has exploded; the cost of food and fuel has dramatically increased; the home mortgage crisis is undermining many financial institutions, affecting pension and retirement plans; unions have been under attack as never before.

No to Eight More Years of Bush's Policies

The IBEW and our Labor Movement urges all members to

register to vote, and to vote for a change away from the Bush polices of the last eight years.

As a U.S. Senator, Barack Obama has a 98% voting record of voting on behalf of working families, including support for Project Labor Agreements, support for worker protections in OSHA, support for raising the minimum wage and other worker-friendly policies.

This is change that we can believe in.

McCain: Supported Bush 95% in Senate Votes

As a U.S. Senator, John McCain has a 95% voting record of supporting the Bush Administration policies favoring the wealthy elite, attacks on prevailing wages, against raising the minimum wage and other worker-friendly programs. This is not change, but more of the same.

Your union urges you to register to vote, and to vote for a change away from the Bush polices of the last eight years.

Continued on Next Page

ATTEND YOUR LOCAL UNION MEETINGS

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BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL WORKERS
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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 595

Business Manager Report...

continued from front page

ter to vote. Your union urges you to vote for a worker-friendly president who represents a real change from the past eight years of the anti-union Bush administration.

Politics matter. Do your part to help your IBEW, your job and your family's future.

Barack Obama. He is with Labor on all the issues that matter to working families.

Summer Rush Over

Many jobs under Project Labor Agreements wrapped up as summer ended, and our hiring out of the hall has slowed. A number of projects are coming out of the ground, and we expect a number of hospital projects to hit full stride early next year.

There are three PG&E-contracted power plants in Alameda County, however regulatory issues have stalled two Hayward projects and the Tesla plant will have to undergo some final permitting efforts before breaking ground in about a year.

Almost 30 apprentices were laid off after many school projects finished, which caused a quiet panic for the program and our hall. Efforts by our apprenticeship program and our union industry helped get this number into the single digits.

The work picture will be a bit slow going into our winter months, but we are told that there may be work in surrounding jurisdictions for journeymen willing to travel.

Solidarity

This year's Labor Day was celebrated with picnics, camping trips and many gatherings to honor the men and women who do our nation's work, day in and day out. This holiday is a great legacy of our trade union movement, and a fitting tribute to Labor.

On the Thursday before the Labor Day weekend, Local 595 sponsored a rally in downtown Oakland to support workers who are involved in a class-action lawsuit against a non-union construction company, NBC General Contractors. This company did not pay the proper wages and overtime to workers who are mainly Cantonese-speaking immigrants.

Over 100 union construction workers and community supporters joined this rally. Local 595 members took a break from their jobs at the Fox Theater and Uptown projects to support NBC's workers.

When I was asked by KCBS radio to comment to their listening audience, I said:

"There are ways that contractors will abuse workers who are not members of the unions, who do not know their rights. But here today as you can see, coming stream-




Congressman Jerry McNerney (11th CD), center, at 595's annual picnic this past September 13. (L to R) Josie Camacho, Greg Bonato, Bob Tieman and Jane Drummond Mullarkey give a big "Thumbs Up" from 595 to Jerry.

ing into here are all the construction workers who are union members—they are going to stand in solidarity with NBC's workers."

To all of the IBEW members and union industry members who stood with NBC's workers that day: You showed the meaning of Solidarity.

My best wishes to you and your family,

Victor Uno
Business Manager



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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 595

595 Softball Champs...Again!

This year's 12th Annual District 9 Softball Tournament was won by Local 595's heavy hitters...again! Since this tournament started in 1997, Local 595 has brought home the championship trophy a record five times.

This year's tournament fielded 18 teams, the largest turn-out to date. In a round-robin format, 595 won all 3 games Saturday, easily beating Local 440 Riverside 20-10, Local 100 Fresno 23-8, and Local 441-C 18-3.

The Saturday wins meant 595 would be Sunday's #3 seed, starting with a rematch with Local 302. While 302 knocked 595 out of last year's tournament, this year would be different: 595 prevailed by one run, 16-15 in the bottom of the 7th inning. The second game was with San Diego, Local 569, always a tough game. This was another close game, with 595 pre-



Back row (Left to Right) Jacob Brahmst, Jason Kaneko, JD Taylor, team manager Gary Damele, Rick Mayer, Derrick Branco, Anthony Lockero, Herman Tovar, Felix Sifuentes, Tom Reed . Front row (Left to Right) Al Brady, Anthony Martinez, Joe Herpe, MVP Jesse Martinez, John Small, Jason Livermore

vailing by one run, 15-14 in the bottom of the 9th inning (two extra innings!). This win sent 595 to the championship game against Local 47 Diamond Bar - a lineman's local. Not to be denied, 595's heavy hitters won

handily 24-9 in 6 innings. The "mercy rule" was merciful to Local 47, and 595 would see the return of the championship trophy once again.

Congratulations to All!

- Gary Damele, Team Manager

595 Picnic - A Great Success!



Local 595's annual picnic at Rowell Ranch was a huge success. From the precision 595 tent-fabricating-drill team (right) to new games (Guitar Hero) competition, (left), it was a fun time for the hundreds that showed up. A beautiful end of summer day. Kudos to Dave Nelson for the great organizing effort! 595 members and families ROCK!



Wage Theft is Wrong! Justice for NBC Workers!



Ricky Lau, Local 6 member, addresses the Aug. 28 Rally against Wage Theft. Brooke Anderson photo

"They are taking advantage of workers who speak mainly Cantonese, who do not know their rights, who do not know public law," reported KCBS Radio in their broadcast coverage of the rally.

Rally Speakers

The rally, emceed by 595 Business Manager Victor Uno, fea-

tured numerous speakers which included Don Campbell, NCC-NECA Chapter Manager; Phil Tagami, an Oakland developer who builds all-union; Nicole Lee, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance; Barry Luboviski, Alameda County Building and Construction Trades Council; and Sharon Cornu, Alameda Labor Council.

Ricky Lau, a plaintiff in the lawsuit and a former NBC electrician, addressed the rally:

"During our time with NBC, we worked long, hard hours, almost always on public construction projects... We typically worked 12 hours a day, 7 days a week... We were paid only a fraction of the legally required wage and almost no overtime..."

"NBC made us sign fake time cards to get our paychecks..."

"Employers should not take advantage of workers just because they can't speak English well. We worked so hard for long hours because we have families to support and are struggling to make ends meet. We deserve to be treated fairly."

'We've Got Your Back!'

As Lau spoke, union members yelled out, "We've got your back, Ricky!"

Ricky, along with other certified electricians who had been working for NBC, quit the company when they found out that they were being cheated. They then joined IBEW Local 6 in San Francisco,



Over 100 union members and friends rally to support NBC workers. S. Kharufeh photo

and were subsequently employed by IBEW signatory contractors.

Chants of "Wage Theft is Wrong" were heard throughout the rally, and participants blew whistles to "blow the whistle" on contractors that cheat workers.

Wage Theft Detailed

NCECI wage compliance officer Andreas Cluver, ended the rally with a detailed lesson in "Wage Theft".

Cluver showed an NBC Time Card with 60 hours of work submitted by Ricky Lau. He then showed the wage stub and the certified payroll statement for Ricky, both of which showed only 16 hours of time paid.

"This is the smoking gun that shows how workers are systematically cheated out of their wages," said Cluver.

Media Coverage

The lawsuit and the rally received wide media coverage, including the Oakland Tribune, the East Bay Business Times, radio stations, and many Chinese language media outlets.

The rally, sponsored by IBEW Local 595, called attention to the electrical work being performed at the Fox Courts Housing project in Downtown Oakland. Union construction workers from the Uptown and the Fox Theater projects took their morning break time to attend the rally and show their support for unorganized NBC construction workers.

Oakland, CA -

Over 100 union workers, community and industry leaders rallied August 28 in downtown Oakland to support construction workers in their class action lawsuit against NBC General Contractors. The lawsuit accuses NBC of cheating the workers in unpaid wages and overtime. With civil penalties, millions of dollars are at stake.

"We charge NBC with Wage Theft, and Wage Theft is Wrong!" said Nicole Lee of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO. "We demand Justice for NBC Workers!"

The lawsuit, filed in Alameda County Superior Court on July 17 by IBEW Local 595 and the Northern California Chapter of NECA, alleges that NBC failed to properly pay workers who performed carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and other skilled craft work.

NBC General Contractors works mainly on prevailing wage projects. Currently, the company has projects at Laney College, Alameda College, the 81st Ave. Library in Oakland, the Fox Courts Housing project and El Cerrito City Hall. NBC employs mainly immigrant workers on their projects.

Organizing: National Report

The IBEW's annual Membership Development Conference was held at the beginning of September. Over 1,300 Organizers and Business Managers from across the U.S. and Canada attended in order to share ideas and attend workshops to sharpen organizing skills.

The theme of the conference compared the IBEW to a large ship at sea that takes a while to change course and get headed in a new direction.

Since reaching a low point in 2005, the membership of the IBEW has grown by 15,168 members. Total membership now stands at 709,714. Most of this growth has come from the construction branch of the IBEW which now has 335,756 members.

More importantly, the tools, attitude, and determination to grow the IBEW are more visible than ever before throughout our union.

The Ninth District continues to lead the IBEW in growth. For the period from January 2006 through March 2008, IBEW 595 was recognized for organizing the third highest number of electrical contractors in the IBEW. This reflects well on the efforts of our membership, NCECI and the staff of IBEW 595.



9th District International Representative Greg Teeple (left) presents a special recognition award to Local 595 Organizers Matt Maloon, Sam Kharufeh, and David Nelson at the Sept. 11 General Membership meeting. Eighteen new contractors were successfully signed up by 595's Dream Team, the third highest number in the country. Go 595!

Welcome to 595!

IBEW 595 welcomes Terno Electrical Contractors, a "traveling contractor" who has become signatory since our last newsletter: This company does infrastructure work such as transit systems, power distribution, and roadway work.

We also welcome newly signatory The Bowan Company, a Castro Valley company that installs electric gates, access control, and CCTV. Pleasanton-based Ashburn Electrical Contractors has also re-opened its doors. Ashburn plans to do commercial spaces in Bay Area airport

terminals.

Washington Hospital plans to completely rebuild its Fremont campus over the next ten years. The first phase of this rebuild is a new central plant, a new joint replacement center and other work. We have recently learned that this project will be built by an IBEW electrical contractor. The combined and continuous efforts of the Alameda County Building Trades Council, NCECI, and IBEW 595 staff led to this successful outcome.

- Matt Maloon, Director of Organizing

Mother Goose Delivered!
Congratulations to 595's New Arrivals!
Darin & Mariah Self, proud parents of Allison Self, born June 18, 2008.

Charles & Melissa Kanoho, proud parents of Kailie Alohilani Kanoho, born July 20, 2008.

Tracy Madden-Maloon & Daniel Maloon, proud parents, Matt & Teresa Maloon, proud grandparents, Lori Madden, proud grandparent (Matt Maloon and Lori Madden are 595 members) of Aeryn Maloon, born September 10, 2008.

Terry & Tricia Gumataotao, proud parents of Noah Johnston Gumataotao, born July 28, 2008

Condolences to the families of our recently departed members.

Howell Cardiff, passed on 9/2/08, age 90, a 62 year member.

Albert Cloudeane, passed on 08/14/08, age 97, a 66 year member.

Donald Cole, passed on 07/22/08, age 80, a 51 year member.

Robert Erickson, passed on 09/04/08, age 84, a 54 year member.

Daniel Humphreys, passed on 07/27/08, age 47, a 21 year member.

Erwin J Pastor, passed on 07/13/08, age 89, a 67 year member.

Raul (Freddy) Real, passed on 08/31/08, age 74, a 54 year member.

Your Service to our IBEW and Local 595 is Remembered and Appreciated

Alameda JATC News

With summer coming to an end, many school jobs have finished, and we saw over 30 apprentices laid off. Efforts to get our apprentices back out to work are in full gear. Thanks to members, contractors and our sister IBEW Locals for every effort to help our future Inside Wiremen get back to work.

School Semester Begins

September finds the the Fall 2008 school semester in full swing.

Apprentice classes began the week of August 18th with Journeyman classes starting the week of September 2nd. Day school instruction continues for the first 3 semesters/brackets of the 5 year apprenticeship program. Brackets 1, 2 and 3 continue to be taught by Mel Switzer on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 8 AM to 4:30 PM.

Bill Mattson, Jim Guthrie, Donald Dones and Dan Holgate return as apprentice instructors. Mel Switzer, Nick Gigliotti, Paul Marsaglia, Chris Hillyer, Bill Kenney, Cary Matsumura and Kurt

Dembrowicz will teach journeyman classes including Industrial Motor Control, Variable Frequency Drives, Programmable Logic Controls, Voice/Data, Solar Photovoltaic, Building Automation Systems and Traffic Signal.

Continuing Education (CE) classes at the Training Center count towards the 32-hour educational requirement for state electrical re-certification. There is a state fee of \$100 to recertify. Contact the program at 510-351-5282 ext. *812 and speak with Nancy Switzer to register for classes.

National Training Institute

During the first week of August, the IBEW/NECA National Training Institute was held in Knoxville Tennessee.

Attending from the Alameda JATC were teachers Floyd Colton, Jim Guthrie, Nick Gigliotti, Dan Holgate, Bill Kenney, Cary Matsumura, Paul Rodgers and Mel Switzer.



Congratulations to 595's Bobby Miller, who took 3rd place in the 2008 Western States Electrical Apprenticeship Competition on August 16, in Anchorage, Alaska!

In addition, IBEW Local 595 Representative Dave Nelson, Control Line Electric owner Clayton Voroshuck and myself hosted a panel discussion about opportunities in the Building Automation Systems market.

Finally, congratulations to Nick Gigliotti and Dan Holgate for completing the 4-year Master Instructor program!

- Byron Benton, Training Director

Stockton JATC News

Greetings from 595East JATC!

The Stockton area has enjoyed full employment these past summer months. As we move into Fall, many of those larger jobs are winding down and we are starting to see some apprentices come back in for reassignment. Fortunately several contractors coming into the area have been able to pick up the slack. Contractors in the San Joaquin and Calaveras counties have been very supportive regarding employing apprentices. There are two apprentices on the available to work list.

School has started with Ron Brawley, Bob Wilson, Bill Ulm, and Tabatha Hoak returning to their positions as instructors for the JATC. I would like to welcome new instructor Dennis Daniels to our staff. Dennis brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our fourth year motor con-

trols class.

Continuous Education classes are in full swing now with all classes meeting minimum attendance requirements. Cindy Brady, Mark Stoakes and Rudy Elias are instructing the safety, Solar PV, and welding classes and new instructors Joe Olguin is heading the Fire alarm classes.

The Solar PV class and Fire Alarm classes are currently full with members on waiting lists. We are in the process of setting dates for the next set of classes. The Stockton JATC would like to be informed of any classes the membership wants to see implemented at the Stockton Training Center. If suggestions are submitted and there is enough interest to fill the classes we will make every effort to meet any needs. All jour-



Anthony Guerrero and John Leuenberger, 4th year apprentices, do hands-on motor control lessons by Stockton JATC instructor Dennis Daniels.

neyman classes at the Stockton Training Center will be credited for Continuous Education hours for State Certification

- Dave Brooks, Training Director

IBEW Volunteers Needed for Nov. Elections

Running a successful job takes good planning, hard work and determined and dedicated 595 members. Local 595 members know how to build successful construction projects. Now we have to build a successful political campaign for victory in November. We need your help.

Volunteers are needed for the success of our Labor-endorsed candidates. No matter how many ads or radio spots people will hear – and we know that we will see and hear way too many of them – it will be our 595 members talking to other union members and their families that will have a real impact on this election.

This is what we need every 595 member to do:

1. Registering to vote. Make sure you are registered. If you moved since the last time you voted, you must register. Your vote is a sacred right and as a union member, it is your duty to exercise this right.

2. Know IBEW's issues. As a union member, you share the same issues and concerns of your fellow IBEW members. You work hard every day to put food on the table, provide medical coverage for your family, a roof over your head and build for a successful retirement. Your IBEW works hard to promote those candidates and issues that will benefit you, your family, and your union.

3. Volunteer to help build our successful political campaigns for the November 4 General Elections. Just as a successful construction project takes dedicated workers, we need dedicated volunteers to get our Labor vote mobilized.

4. Finally, be sure to vote. Carefully

consider IBEW's recommendations. There has been much thought and discussion to determine who will best help our union. Make sure your vote is counted by voting Absentee. If you do not vote absentee, make sure you vote on November 4. Every vote is important, and every vote makes a difference.

Two years ago, Local 595 worked hard to elect a new-comer to the 11th Congressional District, Jerry McNerney. Jerry is a wind-energy expert, a smart, practical policy maker who is not driven by ideology. He understands the importance of our IBEW, our cooperative efforts to work with NECA to promote quality training programs to build our skilled workforce.

Volunteers Make a Difference

IBEW Local 595 volunteers made a difference in the 2006 elections, and we helped Jerry McNerney in a huge upset win against a sitting incumbent, Richard Pombo. In his two years of service, Jerry has never disappointed Local 595 on the "Bread and Butter" issues that we care about.

Jerry supports the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) that would allow more workers to join a union. He cares about the middle class, and knows that unions are vital to maintaining that middle class.

Jerry supports Project Labor Agreements, an important issue for our members that helps promote IBEW jobs.

Jerry supports our IBEW. Jerry knows that the IBEW fights for working men and women, and he strongly supports our concerns on trade, the economy and foreign policy.



Volunteering takes many forms: Holding signs for Joan Buchanan, Labor's endorsed candidate for the 15th Assembly District. Former President LouAnn McCune, retiree (but not retired) Jim Stagg and COPE Chair Greg Bonato participate in a mobilization for Buchanan on June 14th. This district is currently held by an anti-union Republican, Guy Houston. Time for a Change!

Over the years, 595 members have led the way in politics, helping elect friends of Labor and rising to the occasion when Labor is under attack by anti-union forces.

This year, we need your help for voter registration efforts, phone banks, precinct walks, planting of lawn signs, and get-out-the-vote mobilizations.

Two important dates:

Saturday, October 11, from 9 AM to 2 PM, we need 595 volunteers at our hall to help with Labor-to-Labor precinct walks for Jerry McNerney and Joan Buchanan.

Saturday, October 18, there will be a Labor mobilization to Reno, where we will help our IBEW-endorsed national ticket of Barack Obama and Joe Biden in the important swing state of Nevada. IBEW Locals from Northern California will be helping with this effort. Buses will be leaving from our hall at 6 AM, and returning by 7:30 PM.

Answer the Call

Working with other 595 members to make a difference is important and rewarding. This year's election is historic, and your help is needed.

When we call on you, answer the call, and volunteer to make the difference.

- Greg Bonato, COPE Committee Chair



595 delegates to Women's Conference return and pledge to volunteer.