Dear Sisters and Brothers,

All across America working families are struggling through hard times as employers continue to downsize in response to the global economic meltdown. The stress and pain of this recession runs deep and wide as it’s hard to find anyone who has not been affected in one way or another by layoffs of either family or friends. I realize that many of you on the available-for-work list are experiencing difficult problems that are the direct result of the lack of employment opportunities in our Local and around the Bay Area. It has taken six months or longer within all classifications to receive a job dispatch in most of our employment zones but this should change as we are entering our traditional Summer peak employment period.

As the old saying goes “It is always darkest just before the dawn” and from my nearly thirty years experience working in the electrical construction industry I believe the worst is behind us. I don’t have a crystal ball but federal stimulus money is just starting to appear which will provide shovel ready public works projects with the funds they need to move forward. Our contractors have been very successful winning a large percentage of recent public works projects and they should be well positioned to take advantage of these new projects too.

Union contractors have the advantage of our highly skilled workforce but it’s up to us to use those skills and our knowledge everyday to promote efficiency and maximize productivity. We have adopted the Code of Excellence to demonstrate to our customers that IBEW members:

- Perform the highest quality and quantity of work
- Utilize their skills and abilities to the maximum
- Exercise safe and productive work practices

The Code of Excellence is not only about an IBEW job built right the first time, on time and under budget; it is also about pride in the IBEW membership and craftsmanship and leaving a lasting impression of quality workmanship with the customer.

The Ellis Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant is near completion and the City of Petaluma is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, July 31st at 10:00 am for all interested parties. This was the first major project that I worked to secure for our membership after being elected Business Manager. It was a tough battle convincing the Petaluma City staff that Helix Electric, a large non-union employer, did not meet the pre-qualification requirements. Ultimately, the City removed Helix from the pre-qualified contractors list, the project went union and supplied many of our members with employment for the last three years. This lobbying effort helped establish relationships with several of the Petaluma City Council member’s that continue today. I would encourage all who worked on this project to attend the opening ceremony and personally thank the City officials for the opportunity to work close to home and ask for their continued support of local hire and apprenticeship training on future construction projects.

The local union staff has been working with contractors, developers, awarding agencies, political allies and other building trades affiliates to secure every possible job. This work continues to pay dividends as we are very close to concluding negotiations on several Project Labor Agreements. The Sonoma Mountain Village PLA in Rohnert Park will cover 700,000 square feet of commercial development and could start next year. Working with California Unions for Reliable Energy (CURE) we are close to reaching agreement on a PLA for a 35 MW geothermal power plant located just east of Healdsburg on the site of the old PG&E Unit #15. This $160 million project is scheduled to begin September 1st with an estimated $15 million electrical. The 2nd phase of the Humboldt Bay Power Plant is scheduled to start on August 31st and should reach peak employment in the 4th quarter. The College of Marin PLA has the $44 million Science Building going out to bid in September as well.

(Continued on page 2)
The Northern California Electrical Compliance Industry (NCECI) is our compliance group and I am happy to report on a recent successful bid protest. This protest was prepared and filed by Pat Wirsing on the Novato Hill Middle School Modernization Project. The apparent low bidder on the project was S&H Construction and they listed Peter Irving Electric (non-signatory), total bid amount of $1.325 million. On May 15th, Pat filed a formal protest with the Awarding Agency on this project stating that S&H Construction and Peter Irving Electric were both Non-Responsible and Non-Responsive with their bid submittals. Pat provided the district with the information necessary for them to make an informed decision. The Awarding Agency accepted the protest and awarded this project to the second lowest responsible bidder, Murray Builders and they listed McClure Electric (Signatory) with a total bid amount of $1.71 million; of that amount the electrical portion is approximately $200,000. NCECI is funded through our Labor Management Cooperative Committee (LMCC) and their role in leveling the field for our contractors through active monitoring of prevailing wage regulations is an important element in our strategy to improve market share.

Work smart, work safe and may God bless you all.

OPERATING ENGINEERS CREDIT UNION - AUTO DUES PAYMENT

Operating Engineers Credit Union is offering our Inside Construction members (with a vacation account) a International dues deduction program.

Save time & money. No checks to write. No postage stamps. No reinstatement fees. No worrying.

Quarterly payment of dues will occur on the 5th of the month (the same day vacation money is deposited)

CONDOLENCES

Condolences to the families and friends of our recently departed members:
Donald Haddix passed on 6/3/09, 74 years old, 35 year member. Father of member Michael Haddix and Grandfather of member Randy Haddix

JOHN LLOYD - MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE

With the work market slowed we are working on building a bigger contractor database for future projects. We’ve signed some new contractors and are helping them along to get them up and running with the small work. With the projects we see even in our own neighborhood, specifically Orchard Supply Hardware building right across the street, we need to start looking at a small works agreement for these new contractors to get that work. That would keep us competitive in the TI work and smaller commercial projects.

The Indian conference in May was a huge success and I have been getting calls from some of the tribes we met there. I have already referred new apprentices to Local 595, and Local 234. This was a major play for the IBEW since there are 187 tribes in California alone. Tero (Tribal Employment Rights) law states that Contractors not hiring Native Americans are not eligible for the work on reservations. By training these men and women in the trades we also help our contractors and members secure work on these reservations.

One of the concerns of the tribes was that some contractors hire Native Americans to secure work and then do shabby work and take them for their money. For this reason they are interested in training their people also.

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Keep watching for NEC, Article 690 Photovoltaic Code Class to be coming in August. This class has been written to be easily understood.

Once again COMET is an issue. We are inviting members to this one time class and they are refusing to RSVP for the class. If you are invited, attend the class but, let me know (RSVP) that you’ll be there so we can have dinner ready for you. This class is mandatory by the International and it is a onetime event with no test.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Independence Day Holiday is observed Friday, July 3 for all.
Labor Day is Monday, Sept. 7 (Sound & Communication members also have Friday Sept. 4 off)

CONDOLENCES THINGS TO REMEMBER

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“Every Job is a self portrait of the person who did it. Autograph your work with excellence.”

HUMBOLDT BAY REPOWERING PROJECT

DAVID BORGESON-BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

Greetings from the North,

While these may not be the best of times, I am sure that better days are ahead for our local and members. I don’t say that based on some sheepish wishful sentimentality, but rather on recent developments that have come about as a result of the current challenges.

One opportunity for those of us on the North Coast is that the urgent need for job creation has brought renewed focus on California’s least developed deep water port, Humboldt Bay. The Harbor District recently established an Economic Development Committee and sought Labor to be a part of that effort to continue raising the profile of the Port of Humboldt Bay, along with a restored rail line, to promote the untapped potential here to help this region back to prosperity.

While there seems to be an endless number of stakeholders weighing in on the “appropriate” way to move ahead, I will represent you and all of Labor on that committee. We will all benefit from a restored working port and railroad, and that will be the economic engine to those better days ahead.

DENISE SOZA-BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

A lot of you are probably receiving your gold cards in the mail from the International office. If you read January’s edition of the Electrical Worker then you know all about it.

For those of you who missed the article here’s the short version...Quoted from Edwin D. Hill, International President, “We want the hardworking men and women of the IBEW to have tangible proof that they are part of the best, most knowledgeable and highly trained electrical force the world over. Each member can carry his or her card with pride and dignity.”

The card also serves a technological purpose. Your card will have a bar code and number assigned to it connecting you to a comprehensive database at the International Office. When you receive your card log onto the secure Web site to verify membership-https://myibew@ibew.org.

This data base will allow you to:

- Change address, phone, email and demographic information (still have to change at the Local & Trust Fund offices)
- Calculate pension benefits from the International Office
- Verify I.O. pension beneficiaries
- Access I.O. pension application paperwork
- Verify dues payment
- Confirm trade classification
- Access proof of all NJATC training
- Perform other tasks

And coming soon, this hall will be receiving new computerized data readers to scan your cards and access information previously only available at the I.O.

If you have questions about your new card you can call 202-728-6231 or send an email to myibew@ibew.org.

Please have a safe summer. Get involved with you your union. Get involved in your community. Get signed up for email alerts from this hall. It is a simple as going to our website ibewlocal551.org. Register under member login. And for any questions or concerns, please, CALL THE HALL!!!
THE CLOCK IS TICKING FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT NEED TO RENEW YOUR STATE CERTIFICATION AND FOR ANYBODY WHO HAS NOT BEEN STATE CERTIFIED. IN ORDER TO RENEW YOUR STATE CERTIFICATION YOU MUST SUBMIT YOUR PROOF OF 32 HOURS OF EDUCATIONAL TRAINING. THE STATE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS 30 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR RENEWAL DATE.

THE TRAINING CENTER HAS MADE IT VERY SIMPLE FOR YOU TO GET YOUR TRANSCRIPT OF ANY CLASSES YOU MAY HAVE TAKEN AT THE TRAINING CENTER. TO DO THIS YOU MUST FIRST:

- Register on the rejatc.org website. Once you register you will receive an email and activate you. Once you get the email confirmation you will then be able to go to the next level of access.
- Go to the “member resources” page, enter your first name, last name and last 4 digits of your SSN. This should take you to the section view class details.
- Select “View Class Details” in order to review your transcript.

There you will be able to view your proof of hours and print out your page. If you are not “computer friendly” perhaps your family or friends are. The Training Center is trying to make this as easy as possible to get proof of your educational hours.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

INSIDE CONSTRUCTION

Front: (L-R) Tom Ritch (Instructor), Steve Stobel (Training Director), Gary Giuliani (Instructor), Marsha Teixeira, Omar Munoz, James French, Matt Sullivan, Frank Greco, David Jansson, Michael Artegiani
Middle: Robert Frankovich, Edward Matticola, Evan Davidson Back: Michael Donegan, Haille Paul, James Spaletta, Matt Bozzo, Mark Hill, Michael Proctor

SOUND & COMMUNICATIONS

(Class picture not taken)

Congratulations on your recent completion of apprenticeship!!!

NASCAR SPRINT CUP SERIES

Make sure you are at Auto Club Speedway as the NASCAR Sprint Cup heats up in the Chase for the first time ever in Fontana, California. It’s NASCAR’s version of the playoffs. and it’s right here at Auto Club Speedway in Fontana!

Our Local has been offered a savings of $35 per ticket if we get a group of up to 24 and a $55 savings with 25-50 people.

If you are interested please contact the hall as soon as possible so we can see if there is any interest.

Don’t miss the inaugural year of The Chase- the Pepsi 500.
Sunday, October 11th!

SONOMA COUNTY FAIR

The Sonoma County Fair is just around the corner. The Building Trades will have their booth in the main pavilion again this year. If you are interested in volunteering at the Building Trades Fair Booth, please contact Denise Soza at the hall. Our days for the booth are July 30 and August 5. You are given 2 passes to get into the fair and a parking pass for volunteering 2 hours in the booth!