Let me start by thanking you all for the tremendous vote of confidence in my re-election as your Business Manager/Financial Secretary on a white ballot. I feel deeply humbled at this outcome and once again pledge to give you my best effort each and every day towards the worthy goal of building a stronger and more successful local union. A union that is willing to work hard both on and off the job for each other. A brotherhood that is dedicated to the highest degree of craftsmanship through superior education and training, resulting in added value for the customers who seek out our union contractors. In return for our hard work we desire fair wages and benefits, not just for union members but also for unorganized workers.

Reflecting back on the achievements of the last three years, I want to pay tribute to the dedicated brothers who laid the foundation and built this local to be as strong as it is. Since the charter of our local in 1948, the following men need to be recognized for their contributions to the wages, benefits and working conditions that we enjoy today. They are Charles Geller (1948 - 1953), Nick Fry (1953 - 1969 ), Ted Tobener (1969 - 1974), Robert Mountjoy (1974 - 1977), Richard Clarey (1977 - 1995), Steve Johnson (1995 - 2001) and Steve Benjamin (2001 - 2004) who served the local with distinction in the office of Business Manager. Let us always strive to fulfill their vision of social equality and worksite dignity for all.

Non-union contractors typically exploit workers by undermining wages and benefits in order to be competitive in the market place. That is the philosophy of the anti-union forces at work in society today such as the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC). The ABC regularly lobbies against Davis-Bacon (prevailing wages) at the federal, state and local level, the 8 hour work-day and the 40 hour work week, any requirement to provide health care benefits to workers and their families, pre-qualification of contractors, labor compliance programs, Project Stabilization Agreements (PSAs), and legislation that would require apprenticeship programs to graduate at least one apprentice per year.

In fact, the ABC detest the idea of PSAs so much that they have established an organization called the Coalition for Fair Contracting that exists for the sole purpose of opposing them. This group attacks PSAs in the same manner as a partisan political campaign by misrepresenting the facts as they relate to the agreements. They claim that PSAs raise the cost of construction by 15% - 20%, all the time knowing that public works projects are covered by prevailing wages. They claim that they are discriminatory, in spite of the fact that the California Supreme Court has ruled that they are not. They maintain they are union only agreements that prevent non-union contractors and their workers from participating on such projects, when they know that there are many examples of non-union contractors working on them. They have no shame and will say or do almost anything to discredit the long list of successful PSAs.

These tactics and others have been used against us with a high degree of success on public works projects where labor has attempted to establish PSAs here in the North Bay. That is until we took them on at the College of Marin (COM) and prevailed on a PSA, with a 6-1 vote of the COM Trustees, for their two biggest construction projects estimated at $80 million. The Trustees have also left the door open for additional projects that maybe added to the PSA in the future.

The ABC pulled out all the stops in this battle. They mailed two political hit pieces to registered Republican voters in Marin County that (Continued on Page 4)
**DATES AND THINGS TO REMEMBER**

*Thursday, July 19, 2007—General Meeting—6:00 pm*
*Saturday, August 25, 2007—Picnic at Mortons Warm Springs—Annual Building Fund Meeting at Noon.*
*Friday, October 26, 2007—Old Timers Night—Sheraton, Petaluma*

**Dues Increase**

- January 1, 2007—$25.00 “A” members and $13.00 “BA” members
- January 1 of 2008, 2009, 2010 & 2011 dues for “A” members will increase by $1.00 per year.

This increase is for the IBEW pension fund.

**CONDOLENCES**

Our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of the following members who have recently passed:
- Jackie Cunningham who passed away on May 5, 2007 from cancer. Jackie was initiated in February 1980 and was 51 years old. Retired Billy Underwood who passed away on May 1, 2007. Bill was initiated in July of 1962.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We have the following volunteer projects coming up: Montgomery High School, Pathway Lighting Project in August 2007 — approx. 2-3 days, The Children's Village, Habitat for Humanity, Residential wiring in September 2007 approx. 4-6 days. If you are interested in giving a bit of your time, please call Steve at the hall.

**COMET CLASS**

The International Office has requested that all members of the IBEW attend a COMET (Construction Organizing Membership Education Training) Class. When you get your letter please make every effort to attend. Thank you to the following members who have completed the COMET class this quarter.

- Walter Ayala
- Sam Coe
- Darren Falker
- William Henry Jr.
- Tom Barajas
- Matthew Culhane
- Chris Flagerman
- Joshua Hernandez
- Michael Bauer
- Eddie Dunn
- Sean Gardner
- Kenny Hill
- Charles Bond
- Jon Emery
- Shaun Garrison
- Leif Piland
- Adan Castro
- Anthony Erigero
- Mike Goodfellow
- Timothy Purugganan
- Jason Cochenette
- Michael Etimos
- Gabrael Gumanday

**JOB STEWARD TRAINING CLASS**

All Journeyman are invited to attend Job Steward Training on Wednesday, July 18, 2007. You must RSVP to Steve at the hall in order to attend. Apprentices are welcome as long as there is room available.

**DAVID BORGESON—BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE**

Greetings from the north. While the work picture in Humboldt and Del Norte looks good for the future, with some large power generating projects in the planning and permit stages, the couple of current projects in progress are having trouble getting to the point of needing our help. I'm told that the new gym at HSU will ramp up in July and the completion date has been extended to Jan. 2008. Should employ about 12 wiremen at its peak. I also understand that the PG&E power plant project that was to begin at the end of this year has encountered an environmental hurdle (what’s new?!?) that will push it back about 6 months. It also appears that a large addition to St. Joseph Hospital is beginning to become a reality. Thankfully, Kneaper Electric continues to employ the majority of the members here and remains this areas strongest union employer.

A good portion of my time has been spent gathering information on the local electrical scene and all the players involved, including the contractors and the certification status of the local workforce, the apprenticeship programs here, the “trainee” classification that appears to be a popular way around certification, etc. It appears that we have some opportunities to level the playing field for our signatory contractors, if we can get the attention of the people necessary to enforce the codes and regulations of the state.

I want to thank Herman Marchbanks and Steve Stobal for the guidance and help it takes to make the transition from wireman to representative. As we make progress towards turning this area into an asset for the local, I would hope the members support these efforts. Your presence at the union meetings is a sign of strength and encouragement that it will improve here, so come and make your voice heard.
DENISE SOZA—BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

Good-bye Spring and hello Summer! How about our Paintball Challenge? We kicked local 180’s butt! And it was a blast. If you weren’t there you missed a fun time. Thanks to our winning team: Our team captain, Brad Ingram, thanks Brad!, Jack Buckhorn, Jennifer Greenwood, Dee Soza, Sean Corcoran, Matt Culhane, Ed Matticola, Michael Frank, Antonio Ramirez, and Carlos Tovar. Thanks for the fun day! Check out our web site www.ibewlocal551.org click on photo gallery, lots of cool photos!

Congratulations to our newly graduated journeyman! I was honored to share your celebration with you. Photos on the web site. Be responsible, work safe, and teach your apprentices well!

Speaking of apprentices, come to the apprentice committee meetings, get involved, hear what you’re missing! They are the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6 pm at the Round table Pizza located on the corner of Steele Lane and Cleveland Ave. The apprentices are organizing a fabulous Christmas Party, it’s a big deal! Any ideas? Bring’em!

I am currently working to get all our members registered to vote. We’re around the 400 mark. Out of 767 members we’re at least more than half. Not bad, but I think we could do better, don’t you? We have registration forms here at the hall. I can mail one to you if you ask. I don’t have to tell you the importance of the right to vote, you know. And if you don’t, give me a call, I’ll give you an ear full!

Thanks for reading. And please fill out your enclosed survey. It will only take a couple of minutes, This is a great opportunity to talk with your union in the privacy of your own home. Wow! what a great idea! Always great to hear from you. See you at the union meeting or your worksite. Work Safe!

STEVE STOBEL - BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

I’d like to write about a few items that might need some clarification:

Dues- We all pay two different types of dues – work assessment (is deducted from your check), and International dues (you are personally responsible to pay the amount of $25.00 per month). When you pay your I/O dues you get a yellow dues receipt that is supposed to be with you while on the job site, and to attend union meetings (if you are on a job with a steward present, he will check your receipt monthly). If your over 3 months delinquent on your dues you will be charged a reinstatement fee. If your dues are over six months delinquent you will be dropped from membership. Please check your dues receipt to see what month you are paid through.

Lay offs : If you are a Journeyman Wireman and laid off with 120 hours (or less), to be restored to your original spot on the Books, you MUST bring a termination slip and check stub(s) showing hours worked.

Drug Testing : The Journeymen that are participating in the Drug Free Workforce Program are required to be tested yearly on their birthday month. You should receive a letter from Bensinger, Dupont, & Associates (the plan administrator) around the beginning of your birth month. You can test at your convenience during the calendar month. If you do not receive this letter, call the hall and we’ll get it fixed for you. If you do not take your birthday, or any random tests, your “Active Status” will be invalidated and your employer will be notified.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following who passed the Inside Journeyman Wireman test on May 31, 2007: Jorge Alcazar, Rogelia Calva-Diaz, Mike Goodfellow, Michelle Hadzess, Josh Hernandez, John House, John Nikula and Scott Vedder.

Have a great summer and work safe!

JOHN LLOYD - ORGANIZER

I am proud to be part of the team attending the green building seminars in L.A. this month. The IBEW is aggressively pursuing the photovoltaic opportunities for our industry. We have a new look and new promise in this field. The IBEW has been working closely with out of country manufacturers to insure a plentiful supply of panels and equipment for the IBEW contractors. This will open new doors and create many jobs for this industry.

The organizing has been coming right along this year. We have signed some new contractors and new members. We are currently focusing on new contractors to bid the Lake County work to create more competition in this area. I have also been contacting and meeting with contractors in Mendocino county and have been getting a favorable response from many of them.

I have continued to pursue the non-union contractors I started on when I first came onboard. We have had some successes and some setbacks. But rest assured that I do not give up and will continue to forge ahead to educate contractors on the benefits of the IBEW.
(Continued from page 1) were filled with all of their misleading rhetoric. In the mailer they asked these folks to contact the COM Trustees via email and to show up at the Trustee meeting in opposition the PSA. They met with a conservative taxpayer organization that opposed the COM bond measure and with members of the bond oversight committee in an attempt to derail the PSA. In the end they failed miserably as only two members of the public showed up to speak against the PSA. We now have the opportunity to demonstrate just how effective PSAs are as a construction risk management tool and how they can be tailored to address specific needs and concerns of the community.

The ABC fought hard to defeat the COM PSA because they know that their non-union contractors must cheat to compete and they fear its success will result in other local awarding agencies employing PSAs for their capital improvement projects. They are determined to stem the tide of PSAs and we can anticipate future campaigns designed to undermine the ability of working people to make a decent living.

This victory at the COM is just the beginning of the success that we can and should experience on a regular basis. Organized labor and progressive organizations throughout the North Bay, in a show of strength, rallied together to support the PSA and defeat the ABC. Let me end with the words of COM Trustee Greg Brockbank, who prior to casting his vote in favor of the PSA, declared “I don’t think shameful is too strong a word to use to describe the tactics of the ABC of what I consider to be throwing up a bunch of mud and seeing if any sticks. They seem to subscribe to the philosophy that if you repeat something often enough, no matter how blatantly untrue, that some people will come to believe it…” There were more than 100 brothers and sisters in the audience that night that whole-heartedly agreed with those sentiments. Work smart, work safe and may God bless you all.