



# IBEW Local Union 551

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - Santa Rosa, CA

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4th Quarter 2007

## From the Business Manager - Jack A. Buckhorn



Dear Sisters and Brothers:

I received the following letter of commendation from IBEW Local 595 member David Senft, Superintendent Blocka Construction Inc. on the Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Project, detailing how members

of our Local provided life saving first aid to an injured worker.

November 7, 2007

Dear Jack,

I am writing this letter to you and to the members of Local 551 because a few of your members should be recognized for saving a life here on this project.

This occurred yesterday about 5:15 PM. The crew was working overtime and they had just about finished picking up for the night. The electricians became aware that a Millwright had fallen about 12' into an existing concrete pit. Some of the men went into the pit to assist the injured man. They contacted me for immediate medical assistance and an ambulance. I relayed this information to the General Contractor and proceeded to the location. The injured Millwright's name is Josh. Some of the electricians had immobilized Josh, made sure that he was not bleeding and they were treating him for shock. The remainder of the crew was installing portable lighting, power cords and a safe ladder into the area for the paramedics who would arrive within minutes. These electricians comforted Josh and kept him safe until professional help arrived. When the paramedics arrived it was the electricians who transported the medical and rescue equipment into the pit and they continued to assist the paramedics during the triage. When Josh had been stabilized it was the electricians who hand carried Josh, strapped into a man basket, to the end of the pit where a grade-all had been placed to lift Josh out. They secured the rigging and

Josh was lifted to a waiting ambulance.

Josh was working alone when this happened. It was after normal working hours and in my opinion he would have died from his injuries if it weren't for the electricians' immediate response and the correct lifesaving actions that they performed. **These men did not stand around and watch they took charge.**

We have since learned that Josh had broken his left femur, suffered a severe gash to his right leg, has internal bleeding and may have broken his neck. As of this afternoon Josh has complete feeling and doesn't seem to suffer from any paralysis. He will require surgery and will be off work for quite some time.

The Plant Manager, the Construction Management team and the General Contractor have asked me to thank the entire crew of Electricians for their outstanding efforts last night. I have done so and I would like to add that Blocka Construction, as well as myself, are very proud to have these men on my crew. If you could somehow acknowledge them at a future union meeting I would appreciate that very much.

The electricians I have told you about are:

Ray Sciacca, Union Steward and Journeyman Electrician; Rob Barsi, Apprentice Electrician; Matt Bozzo, Apprentice Electrician; Mike Clary, Journeyman Electrician; Tony Erigero, Apprentice Electrician; Todd Fronsman, Journeyman Electrician; Bobby Holmes, Journeyman Electrician; Gene Moore, Journeyman Electrician; Marco Ruggio, Journeyman Electrician.

On behalf of Blocka Construction I commend these men for being much more than great electricians, they are simply the kind of people this world needs more of these days.

I would like to thank David for his letter and extend my heartfelt gratitude to those who acted with great skill and without hesitation, in the true sense of brotherhood, to assist a fellow worker in his time of need.

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### ATTEND YOUR LOCAL UNION MEETINGS!

General Meeting/2nd Thurs/6pm

Eureka Unit Meeting/2nd Tues/5pm

(From the Business Manager)

Most of us go to work every day assuming that at the end of the day we will be returning home safely. However, the facts are that 7,600 electrical contact injuries occur annually in the United States. Of these injuries, 3,600 of them leave the worker disabled, unable to continue their career in the same capacity or forcing them to leave their occupation. In addition to these injuries, one person dies from electrocution in the workplace every day. Historically, electrocutions are the fourth leading cause of workplace deaths.

As startling as these Department of Labor statistics are, they do not tell the whole story. These statistics only represent the incidents that are required to be reported. They do not include all injuries or the near miss situations that occur every day. A near miss would be classified as an electrical incident in which no one was injured and the electrical equipment was not damaged causing lost production.

The key to an electrically safe workplace is safety awareness, qualified certified electricians, training, and safety program auditing. The three factors that comprise electrical incidents are equipment failure, unsafe conditions, and unsafe acts. Equipment failure and unsafe conditions account for one-third of the incidents. Unsafe acts are a result of inappropriate behavior or *lack of training* and account for two thirds of electrical incidents.

We can prevent most accidents with the proper training, which is why our JATC has a long-standing requirement that all apprentices be certified in CPR/ First Aid with OSHA 10 training. These safety classes are free of charge to all members and I would encourage you to contact the JATC at (707) 523-3837 and register for the next class. This training can be applied to your 32-hour electrical certification continuing education requirement.

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

## CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies go to the family and friends of the following who have recently passed. Retired Brother George Duer, 3/9/14 ~ 10/17/07. George was initiated in

November 1947 and Retired Brother George Grady 2/8/22 ~ 11/19/07. George was initiated in August 1965.

## STEVE STOBEL - BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

As we all know State Certification has been in effect for General, Residential, and Fire Life Safety wiremen for some time. You are required to attend 32 hours of electrical education before your extended expiration date – for most of us it is the anniversary day in 2009. For more info on classes go to : [rejatc.org](http://rejatc.org) and click on the “Journeyman Training” link. For information on your expiration date go to the DAS website at:

[www.dir.ca.gov/DAS/ElectricalTrade.htm](http://www.dir.ca.gov/DAS/ElectricalTrade.htm)

The VDV, or Sound & Communications, State Certification has been moved back to December 31, 2008. As of April 23, 2007 test preparation questions available online : [www.norcalvdv.org](http://www.norcalvdv.org). Click on “VDV Certification Test” and enter the Local Union number where you pay your dues – LU551. There is no charge for this service. Good Luck and Happy Holidays.

## DAVID BORGESON—BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

Greetings from the north. While focusing on compliance on public works projects here in the past few months it has become increasingly apparent that, in addition to the offending contractors, we are running up against the agencies in place who are supposed to be guarding the public’s interests. Their ineptness is, I believe, due to ignorance and complacency.

It is amazing to me that the basics of the apprenticeship requirements on public works projects are not strictly enforced by even the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS, the state agency) whose own mission statement is to “create opportunities for Californians to gain employable lifetime skills and provide employers with a highly skilled and experienced workforce while strengthening California’s economy”. Under pressure from non-union groups, the DAS undermines their own mission by maintaining a loophole that requires contractors to

only request for dispatch of apprentices on public works jobs. Since training is time consuming and costly, irresponsible contractors merely request for apprentices from out of the area programs knowing these programs will not dispatch within 72 hours, thereby relieving them from this “requirement”. The end result is that training opportunities are lost, and the only apprentices being trained and graduated here in Humboldt are employed by our signatory contractors.

So a big thanks to the few responsible contractors not choosing to take the low road when the DAS will let you. Likewise, a huge heaping of shame on those contractors who’s practice is to not employ apprentices. We will use this issue in the future to illustrate to our awarding bodies their obligation to use responsible contractors on their projects.

## INTERNATIONAL DUES

If you want your dues receipt written in 2007 you must have it in the office no later than Friday, December 28, 2007. This will also apply to reinstatement fees. If your dues are not paid through October 2007 by December 28, 2007 you will be considered delinquent and charged the reinstatement fee.

### \*Holiday Schedule\*

Inside Construction	Residential	Sound & Communication
Tuesday, 12/25 Christmas	Tuesday, 12/25	Tuesday, 12/25 Christmas
Tuesday, 1/1/08 New Years	& the weekday before or after Christmas (see agreement)	Tuesday, 1/1/08 New Years
	Tuesday, 1/1/08 New Years	

\*If you work on any of the above days you are to be paid double time for each hour worked.

## DENISE SOZA—BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

Seasons Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

The end of the year is here. It is time for holiday cheer, and a time to reflect on all the good deeds from our year. I think 551 has had a pretty fabulous year, don't you?

We hired a new organizer, and he's doing a great job. We beat the hell out of Local 180 in the Paint Ball Challenge in May, and they have yet to call us back to re-challenge, chickens. We got another fabulous raise on our paychecks in June. We had our elections in June and everyone ran un-opposed, so no votes needed to be cast. I'd like to chalk that up to everyone is happy in the direction 551 is going, so if it's not broke, don't fix it!

We started a new Apprentice Committee Meeting, it's a

little slow starting, but I'm sure more will get active soon. We have also increased our numbers in registered voters. And how 'bout that Old timers dinner at the new "union location" Sheraton in Petaluma? Wow, very nice! I could go on and on but I'd run out of room.

So, my Christmas wish to you all would be just 2 things really. 1: Please let this be the year you register to vote. There are still 300 of you out there that just need to fill out this 3 minute form, do it at the hall, I'll help you. And 2: Please enjoy, and have the best ever Christmas with your family. This is the most important wish of all.

Remember, if you need anything at all, just give us a call at the hall.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## JOHN LLOYD - ORGANIZER

I can say that we have been very successful with the organizing efforts of this local to date. We are becoming more and more focused on bringing new members to the membership.

As you know the IBEW has been putting a huge emphasis on the photovoltaic field. We are proud to be bringing the solar training presented by Local 11 to this Local on January 12 & 13. The training will be held at the training center at 1700 Corby Ave. Become a part of the IBEW plan for the future and attend this training.

This Local along with NECA and the organization of Solar Sebastopol have been meeting and are forming Solar Sonoma County. We are working to get this county to commit to green building as well as alternative power sources to help reduce the greenhouse gases in our air. Solar Sebastopol has been

very successful and has been achieving the goals they have set for Sebastopol. Together we will be able to do the same for the Sonoma County area and eventually spread to the outlying areas and other counties. We will keep you informed on the status of this new organization.

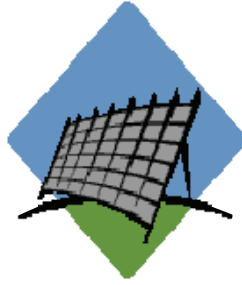
Comet classes will return after the first of the year and when invited be prompt and RSVP for your spot in the class. This is a onetime shot and is required by the International so be sure to attend. COMET is designed to provide you with a solid understanding of the importance of organizing electrical workers into the union. We have to work together to bring all qualified electricians to this body. Please attend the general meetings. Your voice counts here and the best way for you to show your support of this Local is to be present and vote. You do count and it makes a difference.

## PV SOLAR TRAINING

### GET READY NOW!

Learn how to plan, install and test Photo-Voltaic Systems. Be part of the growing green energy workforce!

A 2 day hands-on workshop will be held on Saturday, January 12 and Sunday, January 13, 2007. The instructor for the class will be Tim Townsend, from Local Union 11 (Los Angeles). The class will be held at the



Apprenticeship Training Building at 1700 Corby Ave., Santa Rosa, California.

If you would like to attend, please return the enclosed form by December 31, 2007 to register. You will receive 16 hours towards your continuing education for state certification. This workshop is being offered to 180 (Napa/Vallejo) members also so if you want to attend, register now!

## OLD TIMERS NIGHT

Old Timers Night was a great evening for all who attended. We will be considering changing the name of this night to try and encourage younger members to attend. Maybe Member Celebration Night? We will let you know. Next year the plan is to hold our 60 year anniversary celebration with our Old Timers Night (Celebration Night). Thank you to all of the members/retirees who were able to attend the dinner and congratulations to those who receive their years of service awards. Office Manager, Sue Miller was surprised and honored by Business Manager Jack Buckhorn with an honorary membership into the IBEW. The following members/retirees were eligible to receive years or service awards this year.

### 20 Year Pin

Patrick Berry	Paul Kingsley
Martin Hollis	Norbert Rodrigues
Kathleen Mortell Mallory	

### 25 Year Pin

John Bihn Jr.	Arthur Hanna
Rob DeRutte	Steven M. Johnson
Richard Gietzen	Robert Schmidt
Vincent Green	

### 30 Year Pin

Jon Aronson	Kenneth Bunting
James Hardiman	

### 35 Year Pin

Richard Aggeler	Bruce Piper
Lawrence Albini	Robert Price
Vern Brasher	Richard Smartt
Patrick Harder	Roy Steig
David W. Johnson	Mike Theodorou
James Kendrick	Lee Ostrander

### 40 Year Pin

Terry Ball	Kenneth Christie Jr
Janel Beaulieu	Darrell Elliott
Gary Borri	Patrick Godbey
Gerald Byrne	Ernest Schuler

### 45 Year Pin

Robert Barnes	Ernest Moreno Jr.
Richard Edgington	Robert Mountjoy
Phillip Grow	Albert Patten
Camille LeBlanc	Phillip Varney
Louis Marsh Jr.	Elmer Williams

Richard Clarey  
Jack Giertz  
Thomas Gwin Sr.  
Williams Herrin  
Adelbert Lewis

Leo Nauman  
Michael Sepulveda

Robert Gerrish Jr.  
Charles Hazlehurst  
James Kelly

### 50 Year Pin

Walter Maus  
Eddie Menosse  
William Raudio  
Kenneth Ridgeway  
David Tanner

### 55 Year Pin

James Perry

### 60 Year Pin

Julian Otte  
John Parmer  
Morris Ross

### 70 Year Pin

#### Stanley Stammer



Pres Bruce Piper, Stanley Stammer (70 year pin) and Bus Mgr Jack Buckhorn



Bus Mgr Jack Buckhorn & Mike Sepulveda (55 year pin)



Pres. Bruce Piper, 50 year pins Bert Lewis, Rich Clarey, Jack Giertz, Ken Ridgeway, Bus. Mgr. Jack Buckhorn



Phillip Grow (45 year pin) & Bus Mgr Jack Buckhorn



35 year pins Mike Theodorou & James Kendrick, Pres. Bruce Piper, Bus Mgr. Jack Buckhorn



Bus Mgr Jack Buckhorn, Kathleen Mortell Mallory (20 year pin), Pres Bruce Piper

Pictures can be downloaded from our website.