



# IBEW Local Union 551

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - Santa Rosa, CA

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## From the Business Manager - Jack A. Buckhorn



Dear Sisters and Brothers:

I am happy to report that the work picture in our local is strong with most employers reporting full employment. Several big jobs are just starting including

the Santa Rosa Junior College parking garage, Kaiser Hospital in Santa Rosa has a parking garage and maintenance building underway and the Ellis Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility in Petaluma is scheduled to call for electricians this summer. Our dispatch office has received a steady stream of job calls that have continued well into the winter months. The office has become much more efficient in getting applicants for employment to work in a timely manner as a result of the new dispatch policy. The new referral rules have been working well with only minor problems encountered during the initial roll out period.

I just received a letter from International President Hill that outlines several changes business managers can make to that portion of the dispatch rules that were required by the International President. Some of the changes seem to complicate the referral, while others are worth consideration. At this time no changes to the referral rules are being made but I will be giving Presidents Hill's letter the due consideration that it deserves.

Implementation of our new Substance Free Workplace program shall take place on March 1, 2006. The IBEW and NECA have agreed to require all Collective Bargaining Agreements to include a substance abuse policy with minimum standards and guidelines for each local to adopt. What this means for you depends on several factors. First,

participation is voluntary, but employers can request that only applicants for employment that are active in the Substance Free Workplace program be dispatched to their jobsites. In addition, employers can require all existing employees to participate in the program as a company policy. Compensation will be provided to participants for negative test result at a rate of fifty dollars per required test. We anticipate many questions regarding this Program and are currently scheduling a meeting for all members with representatives from the company that will conduct the day-to-day administration of the Program.

Residential construction in our jurisdiction accounts for over 50% of the electrical construction market. Regretfully, we have not fully participated in this work. Our local cannot continue to sit back and allow this trend to continue without a fight. For over a year I have been working together with IBEW 340 & 180 business managers in Sacramento and Napa to establish the Bay to the Borders Residential Agreement. The Agreement was signed December 12, 2005 by all parties from the IBEW and NECA and is currently awaiting International Office approval. This areawide residential agreement will allow us to compete in the residential marketplace by combining our resources for organizing, apprenticeship training and by knocking down many of the barriers that historically have existed between IBEW local unions. The Agreement maintains good wages and benefits in those counties that currently have a majority of our members employed and it opens the door in counties where the IBEW lacks employers. We believe many new employment opportunities will result from this historic agreement. We are planning an event for all residential contractors, developers and members in the very near future to generate interest in the new Agreement.

John McEntagart has left his position of Business Representative to pursue his interests of working with the tools out in the field. He will be working as the General

**ATTEND YOUR LOCAL UNION MEETINGS!**

General Meeting/2nd Thurs/7pm

Eureka Unit Meeting/2nd Tues/7pm

## STATE CERTIFICATION DEADLINE IS HERE

The following is a letter received from Scott Kronland, Attorney for the Local.

The California Apprenticeship Council (CAC) held a special meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2005 to address the deadline for electrician certification.

1. The CAC voted to keep the January 1, 2006 certification deadline for general electrician, residential electrician, and fire/life safety technician.
2. The CAC voted to provide a grace period for individuals who apply to take the certification examination before the deadline but have not yet passed the exam.

Individuals who submit an application for certification and the required check to the Division of Apprenticeship Standards ("DAS") postmarked on or before December 30, 2005 will be given until June 1, 2006 to pass the certification examination. The grace period also applies to individuals who have already submitted applications to DAS and received notice they are eligible to take the examination but have not yet passed the exam.

Again, to qualify for the grace period, the application and required check must be **postmarked on or before December 30, 2005**. DAS intends to post on its website a list of individuals who have applied by the deadline and, therefore, who qualify for the grace period.

3. The CAC also voted to provide grace period for applicants to become electrician trainees who submit their applications by the deadline but have not yet enrolled in an approved curriculum of classroom instruction.

Applicants who submit an electrician trainee registration form and required check to DAS postmarked on or before December

30, 2005 will be given until July 1, 2006 to present proof that they are actually enrolled in an approved curriculum of classroom instruction. (However, applicants who live within 70 miles of one of the schools approved as of today, will have to submit proof by January 30, 2006 that the applicant is enrolled in or attempted to enroll at one of those approved schools).

Again, to qualify for the grace period the application form for electrician trainee status and required check must be **postmarked on or before December 30, 2005**. It is not necessary to list an employer or a school on the application form. DAS will be posting on its website a list of applicants for electrician trainee registration and a list of approved schools.

4. The application form for electrician certification is available on the DAS website at [www.dir.ca.gov/DAS/ElectricalTrade.htm](http://www.dir.ca.gov/DAS/ElectricalTrade.htm). DAS will also be posting on its web site the application form for electrician trainee registration.

**\*\*Please notify this office if you have passed the test so we can keep our records up to date.\*\***



### REMINDERS

- Keep your address and phone number current with the union office. You may also provide us with your email address.
- Don't let your dues get three months behind. Pay your dues on time so you don't get charged the \$30.00 reinstatement fee.
- Dues can be paid with visa/mastercard. This can be done online at our website, in person or over the phone.
- When registering on our website use your dues receipt card number when asked for your member number.
- Office hours are 8:00 am - Noon and 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday. Dispatch office opens at 7:00 on days with jobs to dispatch.

### Member Assistance Program (MAP)

Please take advantage of the New Benefit of MAP. This program will provide member assistance care. Your eligible dependents and all household members are eligible for 3 free counseling sessions for each "incident" or problem that you may need help with. *Just call PBH (PacifiCare Behavioral Health) for preauthorization prior to receiving any services.* The PBH toll-free number is 877-225-2267. When calling, please mention you are a participant of the Redwood Empire Electrical Workers Health & Welfare Plan. This benefit is not available to retirees.

# CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following Inside Journeyman Wireman who have completed the five year apprenticeship program. .

Edward Brady

Ryan Buffington

Chris Cornilsen

Ronald Crandell

Cameron De Baeke

Joshua Glaze

Justin Hovsepian

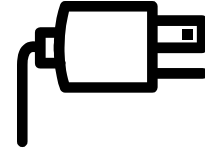
David Luna

Miguel Paredes

Mark Raccenello

Marco Ruggio

Alex Trevana



## STEVE STOBEL - BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

We have stayed very busy here at the Hall even though we've gotten through the 'Summer Rush'. I would like to thank all the members that assisted with our efforts in the November special election and congratulate you on a huge victory for Labor! Our next goal is to make sure that we have the manpower for the work on the horizon. As you are

probably aware by now State Certification is going to take affect on 01/01/06.

I would like to welcome our new Agent , Mitch Clarey. I look forward to working together. Have a Happy and Safe Holiday and look forward to prosperous New Year.

P.S. Good Luck in the field John, and thanks for all your help .

## HERMAN MARCHBANKS - BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

Another year is almost gone. I hope all of our members had a good and prosperous year.

It looks like this is going to be a very good year for the union in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Kneaper Electric has been keeping very busy, and E-Z Electric, a union shop from Medford Oregon, got the Home Depot in Crescent City and will need workers soon. Oregon Electric and Construction Inc., also a union shop, got the physical education building at Humboldt State University which is a thirty-eight million dollar job. They too have talked with us about supplying them with manpower. A big power plant job is to be

constructed in Eureka in the near future and the general contractor has been in touch with the union wanting names of larger electrical contractors capable of doing the job. They stated that they are going to need a hundred plus electrical workers. All in all, we have a total of \$300,000,000 dollars in work for this upcoming year. If union contractors will bid on this work, things will be very good.

I am saddened with John McEntagart leaving and would like to wish him the very best. He will be missed.

Happy Holidays and may the year 2006 be a very prosperous one for all.

### UNION VEHICLE FOR SALE

2000 Ford Explorer XLT, awd, 151,000 miles, air conditioning, rear air, power windows, power steering, power door locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, am/fm stereo, compact disc, premium sound, 4 wheel abs, leather, dual power seats, sliding sun roof, roof rack, privacy glass, running boards and alloy wheels. Well maintained. Asking price is fair condition Kelly blue book price which is \$7385.00.



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Foreman at the Ellis Creek Wastewater Facility in Petaluma for Mass Electric. John has been a real asset to this local union and will continue to be working out in the field as a General Foreman. Congratulations and best of luck with your new endeavor!

I would like to also welcome Mitch Clarey on board. Mitch is replacing John McEntagart as Business Representative. Mitch completed his five year apprenticeship program and has worked as a Wireman, Foreman and General Foreman out in the field. Mitch & I have worked together in the past and I look forward to doing so again.

In closing I would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Safe, Happy and Healthy New Year!

## **HOLIDAYS**

Since Christmas and New Years Day fall on Sundays this year the following Mondays will be the holidays. Monday, December 26, 2005 and Monday, January 2, 2006 are holidays. These days if worked are to be paid at double time.

## **1ST ANNUAL REALLY FUN GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Our Really Fun Golf Tournament held on September 23, 2005 , at Stone Tree Golf Club in Novato, raised \$10,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which is a charity that helps seriously ill children. The proceeds were better than we had hoped for.

This could not have been accomplished without the efforts of the golf committee. Thank you to the following committee members:

Jim Brown – Mike Brown Electric

Paul Calvert– Calvert Electric

Jack Buckhorn—IBEW Local 551

John McEntagart—IBEW Local 551

Bill Campbell—Redwood Empire JATC

Greg Armstrong—Mission 2000

Anisa Thomsen—Redwood Empire, NECA



Pictured Anisa Thomsen, John McEntagart, Jim Brown and Jack Buckhorn with the \$10,000 check to the Make A Wish Foundation

## **THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS!!**

The following members helped phone bank for the November 8th election. A big thank you to Alex Trevena, Dave Luna, Brian Samp, Jevon Mattiassi, Patrick Wheeler, Mike Haddix, Daniel Madrid, Steve Stobel and John McEntagart.

**SONOMA EXPRESS BOOKS AVAILABLE AT THE UNION OFFICE— \$20.00**