



SUMMER 2021

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THE NEWSLETTER OF IBEW LOCAL 11

NEWS @ 11



Getting SoFi Ready for Its Kickoff Closeup

State-of-the-Art SoFi Complex a Learning Experience for Sound & Communications Crew

Working on any part of the \$5 billion SoFi Stadium complex in Inglewood certainly

comes with bragging rights. But for the Local 11 Sound & Communications crew completing the final stages of the stadium's state-of-the-art buildout — particularly the IT cabling,

infrastructure and giant video walls at the YouTube Theater and NFL Media Center — SoFi has been a fun and challenging assignment.

You can feel the pride and excitement when PTL Electric Foreman Eric Cruz and owner Joe Gonzalez show off their company's work at the 300-acre stadium complex over the past year and a half. "We've installed 800 flat screen TVs throughout the facility — in the conferences room, green room, screening rooms, plus

speakers, cameras on the Oculus and more," said Gonzalez.

Cruz freely admits that one of the highlights of his career was being certified to work on the Oculus — the giant video board hanging over the stadium that features 80 million pixels — installing the cameras. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of," he said.

He rattles off the team accomplishments: SoFi's second floor data center, the seventh floor
(Continued on page 4)

IBEW 11 Inducts New & Returning Officers

Over 100 New Members Sworn in at Ceremony

On July 15, IBEW 11's newly elected officers took the oath of office before a crowd of over 250 members and their families at the Pasadena Convention Center.

IBEW International Representative Dave Jones swore in the new officers, executive board, and examining board members

(Continued on page 12)



IBEW International Representative Dave Jones (at far right) swears in Local 11's new officers, executive board and examining board members.



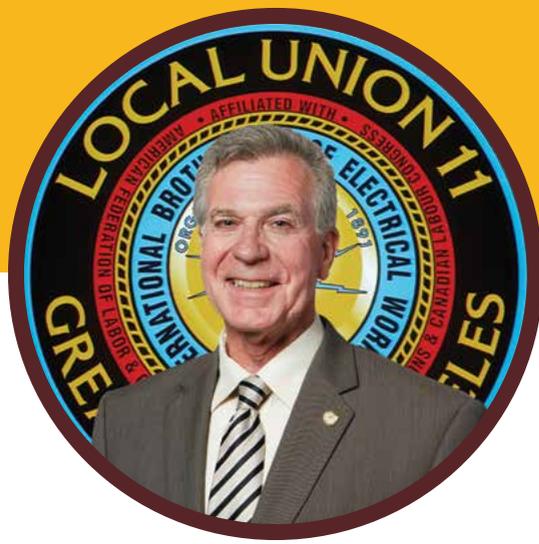
Christine Austria-Lozoya Makes Local 11 History



D6 Office Opens in Diamond Bar



Safety is Mike Costigan's Passion



BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Joël Barton

Supporting Our Friends

Sisters and Brothers,

Let me begin by thanking you before we turn to current business. In June, you re-elected me and my slate of officers, entrusting us to continue leading this great local. It is a trust that I cherish. The opportunity to serve as your Business Manager for the past three years has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I am thrilled to be able to continue this important work and pledge to do everything in my power to make life better for every Local 11 brother and sister.

Looking ahead, the work picture continues to improve as we slowly emerge from the pandemic. Journey-level jobs continue to be steady and our apprentices are working. The ETI is opening back up for in-person classes again. Life is beginning to look and feel a lot more normal — especially for those of you who are

“The work picture continues to improve as we slowly emerge from the pandemic. Journey level jobs continue to be steady and our apprentices are working. Life is beginning to look and feel a lot more normal. I hope you are all feeling as hopeful about the future as I am.”

vaccinated. That's why we're encouraging all of our members to get the shot, if you haven't already. I hope you are all feeling as hopeful about the future as I am.

Please join me in congratulating a couple of longtime friends who have recently announced their retirements. Ron Miller began his career as a plumber and rose through the ranks to lead the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council (LA/OCBCTC) as its Executive Secretary. Ron and his staff have been incredibly effective in negotiating all the local building trades project labor agreements and community workforce agreements that so many of our members are currently working under. We owe him and the council a huge debt of gratitude.

Also bidding us farewell is Robbie Hunter, another longtime ally and dynamo who has been head of the State Building & Construction Trades Council of California (SBCTCC) for the past nine years. An ironworker by trade, Robbie is based in Sacramento, where he has served as a passionate advocate for 450,000

building trades members throughout the state. IBEW Local 11 is affiliated with both the LA/OCBCTC and the SBCTCC, and we have seen first-hand how Ron and Robbie fight for every building trades job. They each leave behind an impressive and long-lasting legacy.

Finally, I'd like to address an important event coming up in September — the misguided recall election of Gov. Gavin Newsom. Last month, I was in Sacramento meeting with the governor at a conference we both attended. We discussed the IBEW's current legislative priorities and our goals. The governor listened — his door has always been open to us.

Gov. Newsom has been a thoughtful leader during this pandemic. His decision to designate construction workers as essential workers and to safely keep our jobsites open preserved thousands of our members' jobs. Imagine what would have happened not just to your bank accounts but to our entire industry if we had not been allowed to work during the pandemic.

As the recall campaign against Gov. Newsom gears up for the Sept. 14 vote, Local 11 will be supporting and actively campaigning to keep this governor in office. The governor has had our back, and now we have the chance to show him how the IBEW supports its friends. Please vote “NO!” on the recall.

*Thank you.
Joël Barton
Business Manager*

IBEW 11's NEWS@11

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From the President

Obtaining Balance to Better Our Union

Brothers and Sisters,

With the recent IBEW Local 11 election behind us and all the officers sworn in for the next three years, I thought I might comment on a few items. First, I would like to thank our election judge, Ormond Brown, and our tellers, Katie Haugland, Ray Vasquez and Andrew Lopez. They did their best with the situation that was thrust upon

them, and they did an outstanding job. Also, to all the election day ballot letter openers who were asked to serve on election day: thank you for a job well-done!

The next item I would like to address is a need for all of us to obtain balance. We need balance between what we want and what we can get! We also need to balance respect for one another and working together as a cohesive group. The local is looking into more industry-promoting programs like Code of Excellence and Skilled and Trained Work Force,

and top-shelf, state-of-the-art new industry technologies. The more multi-talented we are, the stronger our position will be in the upcoming contract negotiations.

I always end my article with an invitation to our members to ask our agents or call my office with questions about anything related to IBEW Local 11. Rather than guess or speculate about how something is done or operates, please ask the question. Good discussion can result in a broader understanding of how things work. Let us all try to be the best we can



be, understand as much as we can understand, and work to change things for the betterment of all!

Thank you again for the privilege to serve you. I remain respectfully yours.

*Gaylord R. "Rusty" Roten
President, Sr. Asst. Bus. Mgr.*

IBEW 11's New Recording Secretary Christine Austria-Lozoya Gets Candid

After being elected Recording Secretary this June, Christine Austria-Lozoya will officially start in her new role in July, gaining the distinction of being the first woman to hold the post at IBEW Local 11. A Journeyman Sound Installer since 2008, Austria-Lozoya first joined the union in 2004 and has most recently served as a Sound & Communications Organizer.

Q: How did you first get started as an IBEW 11 member?

A: My father is a member and signatory union electrical contractor. He's the one who got me into the field. He had expressed that he wanted me to get into Sound & Communications, and so I did. At the time, my husband's company unfortunately went bankrupt, and he became unemployed. He didn't want to venture into the trade, so I said I would do it and I began the apprenticeship program.

Prior to that, I was a stay-at-home housewife, but IBEW wasn't my first experience with unions. When I was 16, I was with the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), working at a market called Alpha Beta as a courtesy clerk for five years, so I knew what unions were about.

Q: What aspects of your professional background and life experience made you want to take on a leadership role at the union?

A: First of all, just being a wife

and mother. It takes strength to be a wife and mother, you have to take charge and multitask, you have to be disciplined and be a disciplinarian. So that pushed me to where I am, because I came into the union later in life, at 35 years old. I wasn't in my 20s, where I might have been a bit shy due to my lack of experience in a male-dominated industry. I think if I had started at a younger age, I wouldn't have pursued it with as much gusto.

I was encouraged by my mentors to be active in the union. I was nominated and elected as the Recording Secretary for our Sound & Communications unit, and, from there, I was asked to serve as a representative for our disciplinary board for the apprentices. From there, I was asked to conduct interviews for our online applicants and then became an organizer.

Q: What does it mean for you to be the first woman to hold the position of Recording Secretary?

A: It's an extreme honor because I'm female, but I'm also in Sound & Communications. I'm not your typical Inside Wireman, so that's also an honor to have been asked to run under another classification.

I would love to see more women being more active in trying to pursue these roles. I want to be part of that. I try to be a mentor to the younger generation. I'm not going to be in this industry forever, so you have to pay it forward, and I would like strong females who can hold their own in this industry and be able to make a difference. One



way they could make a difference is to let other women know that they can pursue a career that is awesome as far as benefits, wages and just the skill set that they can acquire and take anywhere and provide for their families. It's very easy to climb the ladder when you have a good attitude and you're willing to help others.

Q: What advice would you give to other women interested in taking on leadership roles?

A: Be more active, be more vocal. Know that you're part of the union for other individuals, not just yourself. It's not just about getting a title, it's about being able to have a positive influence.

Q: For those interested in getting into the electrical trade, what do you believe are the main reasons

they should join IBEW?

A: IBEW saved my life. My husband had no job and our house went into foreclosure. When I joined, I was offered good wages, benefits — I had three small children that I was able to support and I took my house out of foreclosure. My kids had asthma and it helped provide their medical care. It can save someone's life because in this organization, it really is a Brotherhood and a Sisterhood because we all have to take care of each other.

If you want the camaraderie and the skills that you obtain throughout this, joining IBEW is going to save your life, because no matter where you go, you will always be able to get a job and you will always be able to provide for yourself and your family.

Apart from my family, IBEW is my whole life.

SOFI

Continued from the cover

control center and 46 production cameras around the stadium. He can also check off the YouTube Performing Arts Center and the almost-completed NFL Media Center. Given the size of the area and the scope of the work, it's not unusual for Cruz and his crew members to put in up to 21,000 steps a day on the job.

At the newly named YouTube Theater, Cruz's 13-member crew was responsible for four scopes of work: broadcast, production, rigging and sound reinforcement, and AV. As they walk around the theater, Cruz and Gonzalez show off the intricacies of what the PTL crew has accomplished in the span of their seven months on the job, transforming the facility into a first-class media experience.

They point out the switch boxes hidden in the wall and the cables, sharing a laugh as they recall

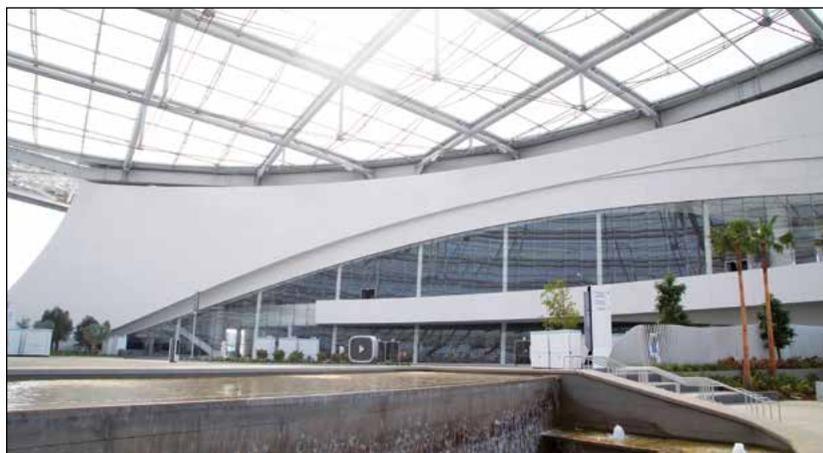
tales of burnt fingers of crew members from hours of soldering.

"We installed over 120 TVs, four video walls and dozens of broadcast JBT video boxes, from the roof to the orchestra level," Cruz said. "This is a place I can proudly show off to my kids — all the work we've done here."

NFL Media Center: 2110 IP

With the YouTube Theater complete, the crew has shifted over to the new 200,000 square-foot NFL Media Center to rough in hundreds more video screens, mounts and wiring for their audio and the huge video screens that the sportscasters will need to call the plays. The Media Center is another state-of-the-art facility featuring 2110 IP.

Here, the scope of work is smaller. "We're handling all the audio/video. There's not as many wire pulls, no fiber, but lots of cat 6 cable and TV and video walls," Cruz noted. "We're learning as a



SoFi's Stadium Complex shares a huge retractable roof with the state-of-the-art YouTube Theater, complete with over 100 flat screen TVs and monitors plus miles of cabling.

team. Ethernet, fiber-optic cables, hybrid cables, SMPTE fiber-optic and copper cables, audio, intercom and video. It's a lot."

Work is expected to end in early August, after some five months on the job. These days you'll find the crew working lots of overtime — sometimes 10 hours a day, six days a week, to help bring the project in on time.

Cruz doesn't mind the 120-mile round trip home each day. Although he spends hours in traffic, "it beats prison and running in the streets," he said with a laugh. Even a daily 5 a.m. start time doesn't deter him. "We get off at 1:30 and have the rest of the afternoon to ourselves," Cruz said.

Cruz has a contagious laugh that sticks with his crew. They're devoted to their foreman, who they say mentors and takes care of his extended work family. "I like to teach them," Cruz said. "We're all learning this new technology together. They're the next generation, so it's

important they learn from us."

Gonzalez and Cruz have worked together on and off for over nine years. They had both been non-union and both joined the union in the past few years. "Joining the union is the best decision I've ever made. I knew I would have a better future, better morale and great pay. This is the happiest I've ever been in my career," Cruz said.

SoFi has been an amazing, if exhausting, job. "I have great bragging rights to my friends and family working on this job. It's really cool how well-designed and -planned this whole job has been," Cruz said.

Gonzalez agreed. It certainly has been one of the best, most exciting projects his company has worked on, and he's grateful to IBEW 11 for the opportunity.

Crew safety has always been a priority, and COVID has made protecting the workers much more difficult.

"It was a big challenge to stay safe and healthy during the pandemic," Gonzalez said.



PTL owner Joe Gonzalez and Foreman Eric Cruz stand on the stage at the 6,000-seat YouTube Theater where the crew spent seven months on installations.

Turning His Life Around at IBEW 11

From Prison to Foreman at PTL Electric

Every weekday morning, when PTL Foreman Eric Cruz climbs into his truck before dawn to travel the 90 minutes or more to get to the SoFi Stadium jobsite, he counts his lucky stars. Sure, he works hard — sometimes six days a week, 10 hours a day when the company needs to hit its deadlines — but it's still better than the life he left behind.

As a kid with far too much energy, Cruz was often on the wrong side of the law in the '90s, running with the gangs. He landed in juvenile hall when he was just 14 years old, graduating

up to prison by the time he was 19. That's when he tattooed "Pure Evil" on his eyelids. "I was partying and hanging out with the wrong crowd," he acknowledges.

In and out of prisons over the next six years, Cruz finally realized he'd had enough. It was during his two-year stint at Tehachapi Correctional Institute that he learned a trade and became a non-union electrician. "I was an Inside Wireman for many years, always bouncing from job to job." Finally, in 2019, he joined IBEW 11 and hasn't looked back.

What does he tell his 5 children

— ages 17 on down? Does he have any regrets? "I tell my kids I made some bad choices, but it's up to them to choose the right path. I have no regrets. Sure, I struggled, but it made me the person I am today."

Cruz is happy to admit that he loves spending time with his real family, but he also relishes taking care of and mentoring his work family. "I'm proud that I take good care of my crew and teach them what they need to know to do a good job. We're all learning the

new technology together"

"This is the happiest I've ever been in my career," he says. "Joining the union was the best decision I've ever made. The benefits, the pay. The brotherhood, the morale. You can't beat it."



“We had daily safety meetings with Diversified, the contractor we are working under on the job. And we all had to get tested regularly. But we all came through.”

COVID also presented other headaches — particularly delays in supplies and materials.

“Trying to stay ahead of materials to meet very demanding deadlines was definitely the biggest challenge of this job,” Gonzalez said. “There were very long lead times on everything, but the schedule never stopped.”

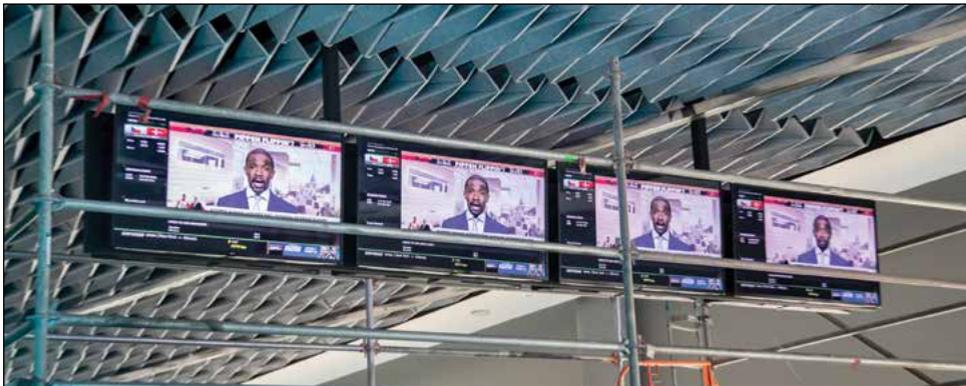
“NFL football season is coming up soon, so the schedule can’t wait.”



Sound Journeyman Cameron Garbayo says that the work at SoFi is “fun and challenging”



Foreman Eric Cruz with Journeymen Lali Castillo and Cameron Garbayo inside the NFL Media Center.



PTL owner Joe Gonzalez with Foreman Eric Cruz in front of the NFL Media Center.

Members Speak Out

“Working here has been fun and challenging. It’s really stretching me. I’m learning a lot about different wires, cables and terminations, plus TV monitors and AV systems. I’m doing something new every day. I started out at the Performance Theater last September, and now I’m working at the NFL Media Center. My high school buddies are all big football fans and they think it’s really cool that I’m working on this project. I started out in residential non-union work, where I wasn’t valued or paid very well. Things are so much better since I joined IBEW 11 four years ago.”



CAMERON GARBAYO
Journeyman Sound Installer

“Joining the union was one of the best decisions I ever made. It was a leap of faith to try something new — a friend in the trades convinced me to sign up. There are challenges being a woman in this trade. It’s a very male-dominated culture, so you have to have a tough skin. But so many of the people I work with are so welcoming and willing to mentor me. I love going to the different job sites and learning brand-new technology. There’s always something new. It’s so fun working at SoFi. I’m a big football fan, so it’s so fun to see how things work behind the scenes at the NFL Media Center. I’m part of history.”



LALI CASTILLO
Journeyman Sound Installer

“I’m from Texas originally, and my whole career has been in construction. I worked as a low-voltage inside wireman. I was in the union in Texas, but it’s a right-to-work state and there’s no comparison. When I got married, I moved to California and joined IBEW 11. What a difference! IBEW 11 really takes care of their members. Now I want to get more members into low-voltage work. It’s the future. I have a work Instagram account to talk up the work and get more people to join: #dr_sound_fire.”



DILLON RICO
Journeyman Sound Installer

“SoFi is one of the coolest jobs I’ve ever worked on. The aesthetics and sheer size of the job are great. I’ve always known I wanted to be an electrician — I like to build things and work with my hands. There’s lots of opportunity in the union. I just got promoted to Foreman on this job — I’m in charge of quality checks and working with my crew of 10 people at the NFL Media Center. I really like the responsibility. We all look out for each other. Safety is something I stress to my crew every day. Joining the union was really a good career choice for me and my family. I always have a future-looking trade to rely on. Everyone will always need power.”



ZACK JASPER
JSI Foreman

“All my friends tell me how lucky I am to be working here at SoFi at the NFL Media Center. I’m a second-year apprentice and I’m learning every day. I really like that. As a woman in this field, I feel like I’m a good role model for kids, especially for my 10-year-old daughter — she can do whatever she puts her mind to. I’ve gained so much confidence since I joined the union. I had been a stay-at-home mom when I saw an ad for a pre-apprenticeship program aimed at women in construction. I applied and got in. It’s the best thing I’ve ever done for myself and my family.”



ARIANA PEREZ
Sound & Comm Apprentice

Political Director's Report: Housing, Green Jobs and the Governor's Recall

In addition to maintaining relationships with elected officials, your political department has been focused on confronting two issues: residential construction and battery energy storage systems. Here are some highlights from our work.

The high cost of housing has been a hot topic both in Sacramento and here in Los Angeles County. Let me break it down. The City of Los Angeles just released a new study on our housing needs, and it doesn't include anything groundbreaking. The study concluded that our region is in desperate need of more housing — all types of housing. That means workforce housing for low-income families and high-end

market-rate housing, and we need to provide housing for people who are experiencing homelessness. This is nothing that we didn't already know. In order to meet all those goals, we need to build thousands of new residential units, and they should be near transit hubs or job-rich areas.

You should care about this issue for several reasons. The first is that all the construction workers building new housing must be union. The State Building Trades, with our help, is working to ensure that is the case. Also, adding more units will decrease the current high cost of housing. So please keep that in mind as residential job calls come in. Because if we don't take those calls, developers will start

saying that we don't want to work in residential construction, and our elected officials will not require the developers to include us.

The other hot topic we're tracking is related to "green jobs" and the scope of C-46 contractors. The C-46 classification was created for the installation of photovoltaic solar energy systems and some other minor work. The issue came up when some C-46 contractors started working out of their scope by installing battery energy storage systems. Those contractors were not shy about what they were doing, so we went to the California State Licensing Board (CSLB) to stop them.

It took some time, but we are happy to report that a recent study conducted by the CSLB,

recommends that C-46 contractors should not have a bigger scope and that only C-10 contractors should install battery energy storage systems. Now we wait to see what the CSLB decides, but it's looking good for us. As I always remind all legislators, green jobs must be union jobs. And in most cases, those green jobs are IBEW jobs.

Lastly, on September 14, we will be voting on whether to recall Gov. Gavin Newsom. Our position is clear. The governor had our back during the pandemic, so now we must have his. I'll have more on that later, but for now, please remember to vote "NO!" on the recall.

Stay safe. And always feel free to reach out if you have a pressing political questions or issues.



Local 11 Goes Hog-Wild at Motorcycle Club Fundraiser

Local 11 bikers, family members and friends enjoyed a day of summer fun at the South Bay Union Hall to benefit the Local 11 Riders Club.

The July 24 event included games, Local 11 merchandise for sale and plenty of carne asada tacos sizzled up on the Local 11 grill. Although the get-together brought in funds to help with the club's operating expenses, the point of the event was to promote good times and plenty of solidarity.

"Our mission statement promotes camaraderie and

engaging in community service," said Mike Costigan, District 3 Representative as well as the Riders Club's Treasurer. "It's about reconnecting and perpetuating the brotherhood and sisterhood."

The first Electrical Workers Motorcycle Club was established in 1995. Weathering a delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Local 11 chapter had its first meeting/ride in the summer of 2020. The club joined forces with other motorcycle clubs from the Building Trades, Ironworkers and Pipe Fitters in support of the Ironworkers annual toy run which helps families in need around the holidays.

Website Update: Spiffier, Speedier, Phone-Friendlier

Whether they're looking up a contract detail, checking out one of the jobsite videos, accessing a newsletter or seeing what's on tap on the upcoming events calendar, visitors to the Local 11 website are certain to notice some changes.

The new website came online in June following an upgrade that took place in late spring. And visitors are noticing the difference.

"The website is so much

faster," said Local 11 Director of Communications Chuck Webb. "We learned that more people are accessing the site and using its functions via their phones. So speed and ease of use were the most important components."

"We have also made it so that things are easier to find," Webb added. "Getting the right name on a category so members understand what they were accessing was a big deal. Above all, we wanted to make sure that all of our contracts and the rate sheets for those contracts are available to our members."

Visit the site at ibew11.org.

New Rates, Allocations for 2021-2022

The new rates and allocations for the Inside Wiremen Agreement and Intelligent Transportation Systems are now viewable on the contracts section of the IBEW 11 website.

The new rates are effective as of July 26, 2021. In addition, the Residential Wiring Agreement became effective June 28, 2021. Check out the rates on the contracts section of the IBEW Local 11 website: <https://www.ibew11.org/resources/contracts/>.

Meet Alton Wilkerson, IBEW 11's New Apprentice Coordinator

In March, longtime Local 11 member and former organizer Alton Wilkerson became the local's new Apprentice Coordinator, overseeing the largest electrical apprenticeship program in the United States. *News@11* caught up with Wilkerson — a former Local 11 apprentice himself — and asked him about his career and his vision for the future.

News@11: Congratulations on the new post. How did this opportunity come about for you?

Alton Wilkerson: The previous coordinator left the position, and our Business Manager presented the opportunity to me.

News@11: Why do you think Joël Barton approached you? What do you feel makes you the right person for this job?

AW: I'm younger and tech-savvy, which I think makes me more accessible to the apprentices. I've got a lot of years left to go at this (*laughs*). I was an organizer for Local 11, and I think my hard work and the effort I put into the position showed that I could do a lot as the apprentice coordinator.

News@11: Once you took the position, what kinds of things did you have to do to familiarize yourself with the job?

AW: There's an IBEW coordinator and a NECA coordinator who represents the contractors, and he's been in the position for quite some time. I spoke with him about some of his experience to kind of get some guidance. We still have Eric Brown, who was the coordinator some years back, and I spoke with him for some mentorship in this position to try to get a better understanding of what it entails.

News@11: What are some of your responsibilities?

AW: Currently, I dispatch apprentices to job sites. So, basically, when they're out of work, they come to the hall to be dispatched out to a new contractor if they parted ways with the previous contractor. I try to do my best to get a sense of the type of work they've done in the past, and I try to push them to do something they haven't done yet. We are trying to ensure that we have well-rounded electricians by the time they finish their apprenticeship

program. I also deal with everything related to disciplinary actions with apprentices.

We hear lots of stories about guys asking for their raise, then not getting it for a year or two years, or working at the same pay rate for three to four years. As a union member, you can count on a raise every six months, and you know that it's due. Especially as an apprentice, you know exactly what your raise is going to be, and you know when you're going to get it. We're fortunate to be part of a union, where our benefits take care of our families so your spouse and your children are taken care of. We also have multiple retirement programs that allow us to have a good way of living after our career is done. So, it's a very beautiful thing.

News@11: What are some of your goals for the Apprenticeship Program?

AW: I definitely want to bring some things into today's age and technology. Some of our procedures can be updated to make the process more convenient for our apprentices. I want to make sure that we have a culture in which our apprentices are treated fairly. I want them to feel comfortable with coming to the coordinator about issues they may have, regardless of what it may be. It could be on a jobsite; it could be with the schooling. I want them to be comfortable speaking to me even about aspects of their personal life, if that's something they want to talk about. I want everybody to be comfortable speaking with me on any level about any matter.

News@11: You were a Local 11 apprentice yourself once, right? What do you remember from that experience?

AW: Everything (*laughs*). I went through the apprenticeship program from 2009 to 2014, and not much has changed. It was a very big learning experience for me going through the apprenticeship, as I had no experience as an electrician prior to joining this trade. I went through apprenticeship and I was fortunate to be with a company that did a variety of different types of electrical installations, so I saw quite a few different projects. I helped build a lab for cancer research. I worked in a refinery. I did some solar work. I built a school for the

police department. I was very fortunate throughout my apprenticeship and had quite a few mentors along the way.

News@11: Such as?

AW: Definitely Eric Brown, Shomari Davis and Big John... quite a few people.

News@11: Tell me more about your career in Local 11. What made you deepen your involvement with the union?

AW: Around the second year of my apprenticeship, I really started to get involved in some of the extracurricular activities. I got involved with the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus. They did a lot for the local and a lot in the community, which really made me gravitate toward the organization. From that point, I just got really involved, so if there were political meetings where we needed to show up and fight for jobs, I was there. If we had events like the day at the beach, I was always involved. I got involved in whatever committees I could help out with. Anything and everything that I could do to help out the local, I got involved in.

I also attended a couple of conferences, and I noticed that there were other locals that had young workers groups. So, I asked the current business manager, "Would it be OK to start a young workers organization?" He said, "Yeah, no problem!" At the time, we called it the Next Generation Youth Caucus, but a few years later, IBEW created RENEW: Reach Out and Engage Next Generation of Electrical Workers, and we adopted that name after a couple of years of being a group. Now our RENEW group is thriving. I'm not the president of that anymore, but I spent some years getting that one off the ground. It's like my little baby, so I'm glad to see where it is now.

News@11: What made you become an electrician? Has that been a long-time interest?

AW: No. I'm a car guy. My hobbies are fixing up old hot rods and stuff, and I had no construction background whatsoever. I visited a



jobsite prior to joining, just to see what it was about and the type of work they were doing — to make sure it was something I wanted to be a part of. They were building a school — a high school for LAUSD — and some of the steel was going up for the building, but a lot of it was still dirt. I was just amazed at what I was seeing at the time, with all the conduit in the ground. It was really cool to see something that was going to form itself into an entire high school. It definitely sparked my interest.

News@11: Will you share a bit about your personal life? Are you from L.A. originally? How about your family?

AW: I'm from South L.A. I'm married. Our oldest son is 22. Our daughter is 13 and she just graduated from middle school, and our youngest son is 10. My wife and I have been together for 16 years, and we've been married for 13.

News@11: What are some of the things that are important about being part of a union? What does a union do for its members?

AW: By being a part of a union, you have union representation who collectively bargain for you. You don't have to fight for your wages or your benefits; that's a benefit of being part of a union. If you feel somebody is doing something unsafe or trying to get you to do something unsafe, you have your union representatives come out and take care of it. Even if it's just a matter of somebody trying to degrade you or talk down to you, you don't have to take things like that. That's why we're here: to make sure that everybody's on an equal playing field and that everyone is respected as a sister and brother in our trade.

DISTRICT 1 (NORTH)

Brett Moss

Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings from District 1 North. I hope this report finds you and your families well.

We have had our first general meeting June 17 after more than a year. It was great to see and talk with so many of you. District 1 meetings resumed in July.

Please continue to be cautious, even with the relaxed COVID protocols.

With the summer months coming, be sure to stay hydrated, seek shade if you are starting to overheat, and always be watchful of your Brothers and Sisters. If someone suggests you drink water, thank them for looking out for you, and get some water.

Stay safe and be well. Always feel free to reach out via email, phone or text.

It has been and remains an honor to represent you.

DISTRICT 1 (SOUTH)

Shomari Davis

Here are projects that are upcoming in District 1:

The Clippers Arena had its first pre-job conference. June 2024 is the projected end date. Touchstone Engineering is doing the temp power and CTS is doing the cameras.

Look for three towers on the corners of 11th and Olive Streets in Downtown LA.

More information will be coming soon.

DISTRICT 2

Gary Tomlin

My Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone is well, working and looking forward to getting back to business as usual.

We had our first in-person general meeting in June, with all district meetings being in-person again as of this month.

The first District 2 meeting was on July 7 at the new South Bay Hall. This gave everyone a chance to come by and see the new South Bay Hall if they had not been by yet.

Work is staying steady throughout the local. District 2 had work ongoing, with the calls still a little slow in our area. It looks like there's no slowdown in the work picture. Calls go unfilled almost every week.

I look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming District 2 meeting.

DISTRICT 3

Mike Costigan

Greetings from the Westside,

Well, the election is over, so it's time to get back to where we left off. Work around the county has been holding strong, and we still have our fair share in District 3. Fisk has been putting in a few calls for the Purple Line 2 station at Wilshire and Rodeo. It is a station box pit right now, and they are getting it ready to receive the TBM.

Also, although the Clippers Arena is technically in District 1 and will be covered by Shomari Davis, it is close enough to District 3 to keep you updated. They have begun awarding bids, with Touchstone getting the temp power, which should be starting soon.

I visited with Comet this week at their LAX shop. They currently have about 20 members working on the enabling for the APM and are looking to hire a few more members as the COVID restrictions ease. Any job call at the airport has the potential to be a long-term job call.

Jobs I plan on visiting before our next report will be the project at LACMA, where SASCO is currently working; all three Purple Line sections; and various midsize projects I have been tracking.

On another note, we went back to in-person unit meeting in July. District 3's first meeting back was held on July 1 at our new South Bay Hall at 2150 West 190th in Torrance.

Lastly, we agents can't be everywhere all the time, and we rely on you members to reach out to us if you see or hear something that doesn't seem right. We need your help protecting our work.

As always, it is an honor and a pleasure serving you.

DISTRICT 4

Marc Greenfield

Well, it looks like we survived the pandemic — for the most part — and I am looking forward to things getting back to normal. Our first in-person unit meeting to be held in a long time, took place on July 6. I enjoyed reporting on some exciting projects coming up in D4, including the complete rebuilding of Reseda and Kennedy High Schools. In other big news, The LA/OC Building Trades signed a PLA for Olive View Hospital for \$1.3 billion over the next 10 years.

I would like to thank all of you who voted in the last election. I hope you and your families are all doing well. I am looking forward to seeing all your smiling faces at our next meeting.

The D4 Welfare Committee is hosting our very first Chili Cook Off on Saturday, August 14. For more information, contact the D4 Welfare Committee. Please bring your family to enjoy a great lunch and activities for all ages!

Take care, and we will see each other soon.

DISTRICT 5

Mitch Klein

Good Day, Brothers and Sisters,

As we are into summer and more people are being vaccinated, it seems that we have reached a degree of normalcy. It is good to see entertainment venues, stores, malls, parks and the like all opening to normal capacity. Our meetings and picnics are back in action and the work picture looks good. We are doing well at the defense plants with over 100 members working throughout Northrop, Lockheed and Boeing.

CSI Electric is continuing work at the Battery Storage project in Lancaster. Taft Electric, along with other contractors, is continuing work at Antelope Valley College in the Discovery Lab, Student Services and Sage Hall buildings. Rosendin Electric is expected to start another solar project in Lancaster shortly.

At the end of summer, Ferreira Construction is slated to start a 25 MW solar project at Lockheed, which should hire approximately 60 members. We continue to have several contractors working in the Palmdale Medical Center, Antelope Valley Hospital and the Kaiser facilities around Antelope Valley. The new Lancaster City Hall renovation project should begin soon. Upcoming projects include the green hydrogen job, more battery storage projects, high-speed rail, electric vehicle charging stations and the Lancaster Health District Hospital's new build-out.

Brothers and Sisters, most of these projects I have mentioned are all under Community Workforce Agreements, which we fought so hard to get. Thank you to all of you for helping us at City Council meetings, School Board meetings, Water Board meetings and Planning Commission meetings. We cannot say enough about how important your help has been in securing these agreements.

Please do not forget about renewing your state certification. We are currently putting together a LAQSP in-house class. If you are interested in attending, please notify District 5 at your earliest convenience.

Thank you to our Stewards Summer Trout, Adalberto Gonzales, Peter Sisson and Andy Rosete. Thank you to our officers Alfredo Torres, Adalberto Gonzales, King Moore, Mike Kaminski, George Martinez, Shane Fairbrother, Ron Dreiling and Dion Jensen for all your help, hard work and participation. Because of all of you, Local 11 and District 5 continue to move forward. Always remember "United we stand; divided we fall."

God bless you all.

DISTRICT 6

Jacob Troncoza

Good news, members! The new District 6 Diamond Bar Union Hall is completed. We held a grand opening on July 9. My brothers and sisters, I hope you all are as excited as I am about it. We all can now conduct our union business conveniently in our backyard and close to the freeway.

In other good news, Johnson/Peltier has received the bulk of the work at the Miller/Coors Brewery plant. They currently have up to 15 members on-site on a given day.

Mass Railroad Division should be slowly ramping up. The City of El Monte will be working with us for the EVITP projects throughout the city. More details regarding work coming down the pipeline in our district will be available very soon. We will also be needing volunteers for political support. Feel free to contact me if you are moved to do so for the betterment of District 6.

I hope you and your loved ones are blessed. Take good care of yourselves and be safe out there.

REFINERY REPORT Manny Solis

Marathon Refinery, Wilmington: There will be at least two dozen journeymen needed to man the upcoming work for Schultz Mechanical at the Marathon Wilmington Refinery in mid-July. In addition to needing the RSO20 training card from OSCA and the TWIC card, the Marathon Refinery is requiring that our members pass a mandatory hair follicle drug test prior to starting work inside the Marathon Refinery.

Valero Refinery, Wilmington: Schultz will also be needing more journeymen at the Valero Refinery in the third quarter of this year. Members will need the RSO20 training card and the TWIC card to accept a job at the Valero Refinery.

PBF Refinery, Torrance: M.B. Herzog needed certified instrumentation technicians and a few certified journeymen wiremen for turn-around work in July. The qualifications to work at most refineries in Local 11 are very much the same. You must have a current RSO20 training card and a current TWIC card to work for M.B. Herzog.

World Energy Refinery, Paramount: The work at World Energy is here! This refinery, formerly Paramount Petroleum, is now being completely revamped. Our IBEW union contractor, Newtron Electric, has been awarded the first of many contracts for good work inside of World Energy Refinery. The first contract will require Newtron Electric to hire both IBEW Journeymen Wiremen and Certified Instrumentation Technicians for the newest contract. The RSO20 training card and the TWIC card will be needed to take a call out to World Energy Refinery.

Work in many other refineries is coming. Many of our other contractors working in the refineries are looking to acquire much-needed manpower in the winter months of 2021. So please stay current with the RSO20 training card, and please keep your TWIC card current.

SOUND & COMMUNICATIONS REPORT Chuck Webb

So much has happened that it's hard to remember what "normal" ever was. We do, however, endeavor to move closer to what we remember as normal. To help you remember, I'll get on my soapbox and remind everyone that the ETI is there for your educational needs. Almost every job call is requesting OSHA 10 or OSHA 30. These classes are readily available to you, as well as VDV and FLS classes. The fact that you have made the time to take the classes, get these certs, and maintain a level of continuing education makes you the kind of employees every contractor is looking for. We are in the middle of a construction boom, a time for us to grow with the industry we enjoy working in. Now, doesn't that feel like normal?

Our first in-person general meeting will have happened by the time you are reading this. Hopefully I saw you there. Check out the website, www.ibew11.org for upcoming meetings where you can meet with all the brothers and sisters that you have missed over the past year.

CW/CE REPORT Jackie Waltman

Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings from your Apprentice and CW/CE Representative. We held our first in-person general meeting on June 17. I'm glad to announce that the new CW/CE contract has been negotiated, and you will be receiving information regarding any changes soon.

Everyone please stay cool and safe, and wear a mask when needed.

It is an honor to represent you, and, as always, contact me whenever you need any assistance.

Watch out for one another and, again, please be safe.

ORGANIZING REPORT Robert Corona

I hope this report finds you and your family safe and well.

The Organizing Department has filled a couple of positions with new organizers, and once they are working in their respective districts, they can take any information you have regarding non-union jobsites, applicants or contractors to visit. We are also looking for any residential electricians you may know out there who are interested in membership into the IBEW.

Should you have any questions, you can always reach me at (626) 243-9726.

VETERANS CORNER Mike Kufchak

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Business Manager Joël Barton and Director of Veterans Affairs Mike Kufchak were recognized by the El Rio de Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative for helping erect a veterans memorial at the El Rio de Los Angeles State Park on Memorial Day. The memorial recognizes all veterans who have fallen in combat. IBEW Local 11 partnered with ESSCO Electric for the development of the project, which included donating the labor for the erection of lighting that will be fixed upon the national flag.

Local 11 will be holding our local-wide picnic this year at the Hollywood Sports Park on October 9. After more than a year of isolation due to the pandemic, we look forward to mixing with our membership. More information will follow.

Military servicemembers are now being offered an opportunity to enter the electrical construction trades through the Veterans Electrical Entry Program (VEEP). Currently there is one resident VEEP course in the nation, and it is hosted by Local 1547 in Anchorage, AK. VEEP permits those military servicemembers who meet qualifications and are within 180 days of the end of their service contracts to attend the course. The course delivers the entire first year of curriculum as established by the Electrical Training Alliance. Upon

successful completion and graduation of the course, servicemembers have the opportunity to select a local union within the United States that accepts veterans as direct-entry applicants. More information will follow as this program develops.

EAA REPORT Marleen Fonseca

The city around us has reopened, but what does that mean for our membership? There has been lots of chatter out there about returning to physical work locations, and yes, the City of Los Angeles is heading that way. But there are a few things that EAA is demanding must first take place.

Reconstitution Plans: Every department must have a comprehensive plan in place to ensure the workplace is safe. This plan will ensure County, City and the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal-OSHA) compliance. Since these matters have been changing almost daily, the plans are not complete. Labor will review them once the department drafts are final, which is expected to happen in mid-July.

Safe Workspaces: We want city facilities and the surrounding areas where our members park to be safe! The city must do better with this. Nobody should be afraid while walking to and from their workplace. We will continue to push this matter so that when you return, you will come back to cleaner, safer facilities.

Clarity Regarding Telecommuting: Telecommuting continues to be a hot topic for EAA. We are at the forefront of this fight, and we're happy to do it! Now is the time to hold the city to its promise of being a "competitive employer." Although we can't divulge all our strategies, we can tell you that we are attacking the situation from all angles — CAO, city leaders and general managers alike.

Be sure to join us for our exclusive tours of SoFi Stadium. This exclusive EAA member event will take place Sunday, August 15, with tours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.





A Jewel in Diamond Bar

Local 11 Cuts the Ribbon on New District 6 Office

For the last decade, San Gabriel Valley-based members of District 6 had to venture all the way to Commerce to reach their geographically closest union office.

Those days are over. On a hot but festive Friday in July, Local 11 broke the ribbon on its new District 6 office, located just off the freeway on Diamond Bar Boulevard in the City of Diamond Bar.

“Members have been asking us for quite some time to open our own office here,” said Local 11 Business Manager Joël Barton during the new office’s grand opening. “It was a long road, but now we’re finally here.”

Union staff praised the new building’s location, which will allow Local 11 to serve members both from the San Gabriel Valley and the Inland Empire. The office will be the home base for District Business Representative Jacob

Troncoza and two organizers.

“It’s good to have a brand-new, fresh and clean hall we can call our own in the San Gabriel Valley,” said organizer Mario Barragan.

The grand opening featured remarks by Business Manager Barton and President Roten. Dignitaries included representatives from nearby Mt. San Antonio College, which utilized a project labor agreement (PLA) to allow Local 11 members to work on projects on the campus.

Also in attendance to welcome Local 11 to their new D6 digs was District 20 State Senator Connie Leyva, who noted that before entering politics, she had been a member of UFCW for nearly 30 years.

“We are thrilled to have you here,” Leyva said. “The union has been good to you and the union was good to me, too. When you’re a union worker, you have good pay, you have good benefits and you have a pension. Sometimes we forget how important those things are.”



State Senator Connie Leyva and District 6 Business Representative Jacob Troncoza



Local 11 Business Manager Joël Barton and President Rusty Roten



Local 11 Organizer Mario Barragan (at right) is joined by his wife Sonia and daughter Haley.



Members and friends gather at the opening of the new District 6 office in Diamond Bar. At right is Organizer Tommy Zielonski.

Meet Mike Costigan, IBEW 11's New Safety Director

Safety, He Says, is His Passion

Longtime IBEW 11 journeyman Mike Costigan brings years of experience to his job as the local's new Safety Director. We spoke to him about his experience in the field, and his goals for the union's new safety program over the next year.

Q: Mike, tell us a little about yourself. How long have you been an IBEW 11 member and in what roles you have served in the union?

A: I've been a proud member of IBEW 11 for 35 years. I'm very excited about being appointed the local's new Safety Director. I've also been the District 3 Business rep. for the past three years, so I have a lot of experience dealing with the members on the job and all the problems they confront each day. I've also been involved with labor at the regional level as one of the union's labor delegates to the L.A. County Federation of Labor, plus I'm a South Bay Workers Investment Board member.

Q: What kind of training and qualifications do you bring to the job?

A: I'm very proud that I earned a Construction Health and Safety Technician (CHST) certificate from the Board of Safety Professionals. And, of course, I am OSHA-certified through the OSHA 30 class and have further OSHA training, having taken the NFPA 70E safety program through the ETI.

Q: You mentioned that safety was your passion. Can you tell us a little more about that and how it will help you in your position as Safety Director?

A: Safety became a passion of mine when I started hearing about the alarming rate at which construction workers were injured and killed. Remember, I came into the trade when OSHA was in existence but wasn't really taken seriously. Jobs were not as safe then.

When a close friend and IBEW brother of mine was involved in an articulating boom incident,



the goal of safe worksites really struck home. I believe if we show up every day and put in an honest day's work, contractors have an obligation to protect us from all safety and health hazards. While I've been lucky enough to never have witnessed any tragic accidents at work, I've certainly witnessed and experienced a few minor accidents over the years — broken fingers, deep cuts, burns, and, of course, back strains. In my new position, I can help realize safer worksites.

Q: What are your goals for your first year as Safety Director?

A: My goal in year #1 is to keep safety at the forefront of everybody's minds. I am a true believer that the Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) is the most valuable tool in your toolbox. Most of the larger projects in Los Angeles require contractors and subcontractors to have a safety person on their payroll assigned to that specific job. As an agent, I have been fortunate enough to meet many of these people. I plan on reaching out to as many of these safety folks as possible

to share in their vision of safety and what they deem to be the biggest hazards on their jobs. I also want to be involved in their job hazard analysis.

I will also be writing a monthly safety blog on different safety topics and look forward to receiving feedback from our members.

Q: How do members report safety violations without their employer knowing? Will the union protect them?

A: That's a good question that I'm sure many of our new and younger members have on their minds. First, you should talk to your immediate supervisor. A lot of times, the supervisor is unaware of the hazard and has a lawful obligation to fix the issue or suffer legal ramifications.

If that doesn't work, members can always call me anonymously with any concerns or need for clarification. I take this new job very seriously. This isn't a position to just go visit job sites. I have an obligation to do my best to help protect my brothers and sisters, and that is exactly what I intend to do. I want to hear from you.

“My goal in year #1 is to keep safety at the forefront of everybody's minds. I am a true believer that the JHA is the most valuable tool in your toolbox.”

Labor 411 &  Present:

Union Night at Dodger Stadium

Join us as the World Champion Dodgers face the New York Mets



BUY TICKETS NOW!

When: Friday, August 20 at 7:10 pm
Enjoy Post-Game Friday Night Fireworks!

Groups that buy 50 or more tickets will be honored on the field.

To buy tickets:
Visit labor411.org to buy your tickets, or contact Jackson Saldana at (323) 224-1520 | JacksonS@ladodgers.com for group purchases of 10 or more tickets.

Tickets start at \$50 and include a special limited edition Union Night T-Shirt. 

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ELECTION

Continued from the cover

before the union's regularly scheduled monthly in-person meeting. Newly Re-Elected President Gaylord "Rusty" Roten presided over the swearing-in of more than 100 new Local 11 members.



More than 100 new Local 11 members took the oath of service at the July general membership meeting.

Joël Barton has been elected to a new term as business manager and Roten will serve a new term as the union's president. They are joined by Vice President Eric Brown and Recording Secretary Christine Austria-Lozoya, the first woman in the local's history to be elected to that office. (See the Q&A with Austria-Lozoya on pg. 3). Jaime Sanchez is the newly-elected treasurer.

Local 11 voters chose Tom Sterrett, Benjamin Frank, John Harriel Jr., Gus Alfaro, Crystal Herrera, Armando Gutierrez and Diego Gomez Jr. for the local's executive board. Manny Solis, Luis Corona, Robert Diaz, Joseph P. Cervantes and Joel Greenfield

have been elected to the Local 11 Examining Board.

Convention delegates are Eric J. Brown, Larry D. Caldwell, Shomari Davis, Jaime Sanchez, Robert Corona, Dave Grabowski, Gus Alfaro, Christine Austria-Lozoya, Armando Gutierrez and Tommy Faavae.

"I am honored by the trust the voters have placed in me and the rest of our outstanding leadership team," said Barton. "Working in partnership with our talented staff and member volunteers, I expect this team to accomplish great things for the hard-working brothers and sisters of IBEW Local 11 over the next three years and beyond."



IBEW ACTION

Help America Build Back Better Through IBEWAction

President Biden is committed to restoring America to greatness, and new jobs for IBEW workers is a major part of this vision. On the new IBEWAction website, ibewaction.org, you can see a video of President Biden calling out IBEW as he discusses the American Jobs Plan, which he calls a "blue-collar blueprint to build America."

IBEW members can help bring this vision to reality by telling

Congress to support the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework, petitioning the Senate to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act and donating when we can. The site includes links to petitions and to the IBEW Political Action Committee, as well as a social media tool kit with memes, images, graphics and talking points.

Visit ibewaction.org and do your part. Our time is now. Let's get to work.

Upcoming Events

Moving Forward

WITH THE

Annual Union Picnic



IBEW Local 11

October 23, 2021

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Food Served 11:00 am. to 3:00 p.m.



Hollywood Sports Park

9030 Somerset Blvd., Bellflower, CA 90706

ENTERTAINMENT:

DISC JOCKEY • RAFFLES • BINGO • HORSESHOES • CIGAR LOUNGE • BOUNCE HOUSES
ADULT GAMES • CHILDREN GAMES & PRIZES

PAINTBALL is an optional event being offered to our Members at a reduced price, for those who would like to participate • All Gear Provided



11:00 AM – 4:00PM

FREE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

FOOD, GAMES AND PRIZES FOR ALL AGES,

\$20.00 TO ENTER THE CHILI COOK OFF,

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

IBEW11D4MERCH@GMAIL.COM