

Local 11 Business Manager  
Joël Barton and Rosendin  
Electric Field Supervisor  
Duncan Macleod.

# A Hospital of the Future in the 818

## With Local 11's Help, Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center Takes Shape

By Evan Henerson

**R**ising majestically alongside the northbound 101 Freeway near the Reseda Boulevard exit is a structure that heralds an exciting future for healthcare in Los Angeles. Construction of the new Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center (PCSTMC) campus is well underway, with hundreds of IBEW Local 11 members playing a vital role in the facility's creation.

As he surveys his crew, hard at work on what will eventually be the new five-story patient tower, site supervisor Duncan Macleod of Rosendin Electric notes that the \$28

million project has been a long time coming and is now greatly in need. Including the two years he spent on the center's pre-design, Macleod has been working on the project for four and a half years.

"We built a new central utility plant," said Macleod. "The original one was built in 1971, so it's pretty old and needs upgrading."

"We've had to do seismic upgrades to the existing building," he added, "so we've had night crews out here doing cut-overs to allow new steel to be put in. That's all in preparation for this new tower to go up. We built the DWP yard and the substations. Coming into the building, we have all the single lines and all the build-out of the patient rooms. Our low-voltage team is in charge of all the low-voltage systems except fire alarms."

As all of that construction work suggests, there is much to anticipate in what medical center officials are calling "Tarzana Reimagined." The first phase of the PCSTMC campus upgrade will make its debut in late spring or early summer of 2022, with the opening of a new lobby, gift shop and admitting room.

Concurrently, PCSTMC will unveil its second-floor 22-bed prep and recovery area. In phase 2, the facility will open its chapel, grab-and-go, GI lab, and cardiology and nuclear medicine departments. The patient tower is slated for completion in the fourth quarter of 2022, with patients being moved into the new tower in January 2023.

The new tower will feature all private rooms for the patients.  
*(Continued on page 5)*

# A BROTHERHOOD WITHIN A BROTHERHOOD

## Veterans Electrical Entry Program to Provide Transitioning Service Members Job Options

By Robert Fulton

**I**n November of 2014, Retired Army National Guardsman Wayne Ashby was doing contract custody work for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement when he received an email indicating that IBEW Local 11 was looking for military veterans to join its ranks.

Because of the local's emphasis on recruiting military veterans, IBEW fast tracked Ashby into its apprenticeship program. He started in March of 2015, turned out with all necessary licensing in May 2020 and is now a journeyman electrician currently working for Morrow Meadows at Kaiser Permanente in West Los Angeles.

*(Continued on page 8)*



Wayne Ashby, right, with IBEW Local 11 organizer and mentor Oscar Martinez.



Meet Your  
E-Board

Fun for all at the  
Union Picnic

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT  
Rosendin's Alice Zegers



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THE NEWSLETTER OF IBEW LOCAL 11

NEWS @ 11



# BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Joël Barton

## Glad Tidings for the Holiday Season

**H**appy holidays to all our IBEW 11 family! 2021 is shaping up to be a banner year, with the COVID economy winding down and construction revving up to make up for lost time.

This is such a fun and lively time of the year, and the 2021 holidays will be especially festive with all the work we currently have and with more coming our way. In addition, our pension and medical plans are healthy, so Santa will be delivering lots of good cheer this year.

I want to begin by thanking labor and the Biden administration for their vision in passing the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill. After years of neglect, the country is sorely in need of rebuilding our infrastructure. California – and IBEW 11 members in particular -- will be huge beneficiaries of

that infrastructure money. A big shout-out to all our members and the AFL-CIO unions who made sure our elected officials voted for this landmark bill that will transform the landscape and create hundreds of thousands of work hours for years to come.

In addition to over 100 projects in the L.A. area that will be funded by the bill, our members can look forward to over \$1 billion in EV charging station work in California. I want to encourage each and every one of you to get EVITP certified. An Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program certification will make you qualified for this work. The certification is offered through our very own ETI here in southern California, and ETI is the only place in the L.A. region that offers the certification.

Much of that money will be used to complete projects that were already in the works but couldn't be finished due to lack of funding. Now, thanks to the Biden administration, broadband and

dozens of high-tech projects in need of our members' skills will be coming your way.

We have created an interactive map on our website so you can track where those infrastructure projects are located. Be sure to check it out at [www.ibew11.org/Biden\\_infrastructure\\_projects](http://www.ibew11.org/Biden_infrastructure_projects) and watch as the number of projects grow.

IBEW 11 also has the honor of being labor's voice on the LA County Just Transition Task Force, where I and other commissioners were appointed to help transition Los Angeles County to cleaner greener sources of energy, while maintaining and training for good union jobs. Stay tuned for more job opportunities coming out of that sector of our economy.

More good news: the Los Angeles Convention Center is opening up for calls again, starting with the Auto Show. We had calls for more than 100 members to run power for the walkways, drops and lighting for vendors at the show, plus the tear down, when the show finished.

Thanks to your union leadership, beginning January 1, 2022, the Convention Center will have a separate book for convention work, with no short calls or hours logged against you if you're on that list. Convention calls are also a great training ground for our apprentices, who need training in the field. All classifications are welcome to sign the books.

On a final note of good cheer, our pension plans are in good shape. They are currently 79% funded, so no additional funds will be taken out of your paychecks. The economy and good investments have helped us along. And your medical plans are also strong. Currently there is a 12-month reserve.

As we recover from the impact of this COVID economy, there is much to look forward to in 2022.

Wishing you and yours a joyous holiday and happy new year. As always, be safe and stay healthy.

*Joël Barton  
Business Manager*

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

# The Role of a President

**H**appy holidays brothers and sisters. On many occasions, I have remarked that it is a privilege to serve this great local. The individuals who serve in an elected or appointed position at Local 11 – myself included – all do so out of a sincere desire to help grow and better our union. It's a job I take extremely seriously.

The union's president has many roles and responsibilities, some of which are official, while others are ceremonial. I thought I would take the opportunity to briefly review a few of these responsibilities. For the record, and although I've never seen it, I'm sure the guidebook that President Biden is trying to follow is a lot lengthier and more detailed.

Basically, the President enforces our constitution and bylaws, and enforces any penalties when these documents are not followed. He, or she, appoints committee members and makes sure that the committees are doing their work and he appoints delegates to trade, council, or political bodies. He does much of this work in conjunction with the Local 11 Business Manager (currently Joël Barton).

The president runs the union's meetings, making sure that everyone's voice is heard and – most importantly some would say – ensuring that we wrap things up by 11 pm, as per the IBEW constitution and our bylaws. He is a voting member of the union, but his vote does not carry any more weight than any other member of Local 11.

The president oversees the union's books and accounts, also in conjunction with the business

manager. The president authorizes the disbursement of all union funds and makes sure that our treasurer is doing his or her job correctly. It falls to the president to ensure that our officers and employees are bonded to protect Local 11 against potential financial loss.

When an officer is not present, the president appoints a member to serve pro tem (for the time being). If an officer fails to perform the duties of his or her office for two consecutive meetings, the president can declare that office vacant, but it falls to the executive board to fill the vacancy. Then of course there's the catch-all phrase: "the local union president shall perform all other duties incidental to the office and other duties assigned by the local union provided they are not in conflict with the IBEW Constitution or local union bylaws.

It all sounds pretty straightforward, right? Well, yes and no. Even after 3 years in this position, I learn new things about my role every day. I'm as grateful for those times when members tell



me I'm doing a good job as I am when they give me constructive feedback on how I could be doing it better. As I said before, the goal is to serve the members and grow our great union.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season and a prosperous new year in 2022.

*Sincerely,*  
Rusty Roten  
President / Senior Assistant  
Business Manager

## Happy holidays to all our Local 11 Brothers and Sisters

## POLITICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

# Infrastructure, Inglewood and a Holiday Wish

By Antonio Sanchez

**A** few weeks ago, our Business Manager, Joël Barton, and I had a conversation with almost every congressman in Los Angeles County. The topic was the trillion-dollar infrastructure bill that was working its way through Congress. All of the conversations were fruitful and all the congressmembers said it was their priority to get the infrastructure bill to President Biden's desk as soon as possible. I want to give special recognition to Rep. Jimmy Gomez of the 34th Congressional District which includes downtown Los Angeles and the Eastside. He was a labor

organizer before being elected to public office, and he helped maneuver the bill to President Biden's desk.

I find it difficult to imagine what \$1 trillion buys, so I invite you to think about it in terms of pipe, concrete, wire and conduit. The passage of this infrastructure bill is historic. It will keep job calls coming into dispatch from LA Metro, LAX, the ports, and public works departments from the County and from many cities in LA County. California will receive billions of dollars which will be earmarked for specific projects.

Here is a short list to help conceptualize just how much funding our state will receive:

- \$25.3 billion over five years for repairing roads in the state that

are in poor condition.

- \$4.2 billion over five years for repairing bridges in the state that are in poor condition.
- \$3.5 billion for water infrastructure and eliminating lead pipes in the state.
- \$1.5 billion for airport infrastructure.
- \$384 million over five years to build a network of chargers for electric vehicles.
- At least \$100 million to install more broadband coverage.

Keep in mind that California will receive more than just what is on this list. This list is just the start.

A few years ago, most of the local elections were consolidated with the state and federal elections on even years, so we only had two elections this past November. We

endorsed Arleen Rojas for Carson City Council and she won. Her election solidifies a labor majority on the council.

We also had an election in the City of Inglewood. With the completion of SoFi Stadium and the future home of the Clippers, Intuit Dome, under construction, the City of Inglewood has experienced lots of growth. Citizens there voted to send more funds to their public works department to keep up with that growth. Look for more opportunities for us in Inglewood.

Finally, I wish you a safe and peaceful holiday. Even after 20 months, it isn't unusual for people to experience high stress or emotional distress due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Please reach out if you need help.

# Meet Your Local 11 E-board

In the September edition of News@11, we introduced you to Benjamin Frank, Crystal Herrera and Tom Sterrett, three of the newest members of the Local 11 Executive Board who were elected in June. Here you will meet Armando Gutierrez, John Harriel, Jr., Diego Gomez, Jr. and Gus Alfaro. As is the case with their fellow e-board members, these four individuals share the common vision of working tirelessly to represent the great members of Local 11.

## ARMANDO GUTIERREZ

Those who know Local 11's history should be familiar with Gutierrez who, during his 36 years of membership, has held multiple positions throughout the local. Gutierrez served on his district's welfare committee as well as two terms on the examining board and three previous terms of the executive board.

"After that, I took a break," said Gutierrez. "During the last election, I ran, never once thinking I would get reelected."

While he was still a student at Los Angeles Trade Technical College in the mid-1980s, Gutierrez was encouraged to fill out an application for the Local 11 apprenticeship program. He did so and was quickly hired. He worked steadily for the next six years. By the early '90s, Gutierrez got interested in learning more about how the union functioned, so he started volunteering.

"We're a big union, and you hear so many rumors," he said. "I needed to know a little more about it. I wanted to get educated and, also, I wanted to give something back."

Gutierrez estimates that he has worked for nearly 20 contractors, but he has been with Rand, CSI and Sunbelt for the last 20 years. Much of his work has involved building automation; retrofitting jobs; and replacing cooling towers, rooftop units, air units and the like as companies have gotten current with state mandates requiring them to be more energy-efficient. He has worked with Hyperion on a co-generation plant, as well as for Budweiser.

"I really enjoyed taking on the responsibility as a foreman and general foreman. For the last company, I was the superintendent," Gutierrez said.

Now nearing retirement, he's enjoying the time spent with his children and grandchildren and looking forward to traveling. The urge to give back while serving on the e-board is still strong.

"My goal here is to try to educate the members a little bit more about the benefits that we have," Gutierrez said. "They don't realize what we have and what an opportunity Local 11 offers. There are so many avenues that Local 11 provides."

## JOHN HARRIEL, JR.

As anybody who knows him would attest, "Big John" Harriel has a big heart for his union brothers and sisters — and an equally large desire to help the union thrive.

"I want to serve my union, and I know we need some help," said Harriel, who is chairman of the Local 11 Executive Board. "But more importantly, how do we grow it to where it's all-inclusive and not have any hidden agendas? I understand that great leaders are servants. So, I'm a servant to my local — how can I help you? How can we make this better and do it with integrity and dignity?"

Harriel has been seeking the answers to those types of questions since he entered the trades. He has served as the superintendent and diversity manager for Morrow Meadows and as the facilitator at South Los Angeles post-prison re-entry program 2nd Call. As the founder of the nonprofit Big John Kares, which promotes educational equality for inner-city kids, Harriel has testified before the U.S. Congress. He received the 2020 Construction Friend Award from AGC of California for his notable efforts in mentoring and giving back to the community.

Within the IBEW, he has been successful as well. He was the valedictorian of his apprenticeship class and has worked on such notable projects as Union Station, Staples Center, Martin Luther King Hospital and St. John's Hospital, as well as water treatment plants, power plants and airports.

"Everything that I have been a part of has had to do with providing service to large masses of people, so that makes me proud," Harriel said.

Having grown up in South Central, Harriel said, he had little exposure to union members or union life. Once he entered the trade and saw the immense value of organized labor, Harriel devoted his energies to building up communities, through both his physical labor and his union advocacy.

Harriel said that some of the finest individuals he has ever met have been fellow tradespeople. "Everybody should be a union electrician," he said.



Armando Gutierrez



John Harriel, Jr.



Diego Gomez, Jr.



Gus Alfaro

"The trades have provided me a way where I can not only empower but leave a legacy where I can set the foundation for those who follow behind," he said. "The training I've received at Morrow Meadows and IBEW [has] taught me to be the leader I am today."

## DIEGO GOMEZ, JR.

When he was encouraged to seek election to the Local 11 executive board, Diego Gomez, Jr. took an important step in his union career.

"It seemed interesting to me, and it's something I probably should have done a long time ago," Gomez said. "I wanted to get more of an idea of the inner part of our local. There's a lot of stuff that I had never thought about, and now I get to see it first-hand."

Gomez entered the trade as an inside wireman apprentice. At the time, he was 21 years old, with a wife and a young son, and he knew that he was good with his hands and wanted to find a job in construction — make that a job in construction with some measure of security.

"I had a job with no insurance, no medical, and I heard this trade had really good benefits as far as medical, retirement and pensions," said Gomez, who has been married 32 years and is the father of two adult sons. "So, that's what got me into the trade. At the time, they were taking

in apprentices. So, I got lucky."

His first union job was at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Other career highlights include working on the Getty Center and doing construction for Jurassic Park: The Ride at Universal Studios Hollywood.

"They've torn that ride down now," Gomez said. "That's how long I've been doing this."

When asked some of his favorite things about union work, Gomez cited the benefits and the fact that a union electrician gets good pay — not to mention a civilized schedule with weekends off. He also said he appreciates the sense of camaraderie among union electricians.

"There are a lot of good people on the job who you become friends with," Gomez said. "I've got friends who I met back when I was a first-year apprentice. We still talk and hang out. So, that's a good thing."

## GUS ALFARO

Over the course of his nearly 40 years in the trade, Gus Alfaro has been an instructor and a general foreman under sound and communication and as an inside wireman. But when asked to consider his professional history, he said it's about the people, not the projects.

"The projects are going to get completed regardless of what obstacles or problems you run into,"

*(Continued on page 12)*

## TARZANA HOSPITAL

*Continued from the cover*

With five new operating rooms, PCSTMC will more than double the size of its emergency department. Expected to be the largest healthcare construction project in the history of the San Fernando Valley, the center's total upgrade is budgeted at \$698 million.

And for the Local 11 members working on the site, the knowledge that their labor is going toward the improvement of patient care makes the work that much more satisfying.

"Every time we're building hospitals, it's important to get it done for the patients," said safety manager Jose Hernandez. "Through the pandemic, especially, I'm sure everyone can use the extra beds. We take it personally because you never know. Your family member or my family member could be in this hospital. It's a good feeling to build something that's needed."

"It's awesome knowing that the work I'm doing is going toward something that helps people," said Ben Gutierrez, a journeyman wireman apprentice. "It's a really good job, and I've been learning a lot."

Although she echoed Gutierrez's enthusiasm for what will eventually be an outstanding finished product, foreman Alice Zegers also noted that, on hospitals, "things change a lot."

"They can spend two weeks installing something and making it look good and sometimes I have to come back and say, 'There's been a change. It's not your fault. You didn't screw up. But there's been a change, and now you have to tear it out and rebuild it,'" Zegers said.

Like Macleod, Zegers has a lengthy history with PCSTMC. In October 2017, she was brought in to help with project design. Then, three and a half years later, she came back to serve as foreman on the patient tower, overseeing an 11-person crew. Hospitals are not new to Zegers, who had previously worked for five years as the general foreman on Ventura County Medical Center. (Read the story on Zegers on page 9.)

On a Friday in November, as some of the floors were in the process of getting their final paint and framing, Zegers said that material availability and disruption in the supply chain due to COVID had made the work challenging. But a good union crew like the IBEW 11 team is up for any curveballs.

"I just try to impress upon my guys that if



*Business Manager Joël Barton and journeyman wireman Wen Fu Yu. Below, crew members working on the new patient tower at PCSTMC which will be completed in late 2022.*

we stay organized, it helps us to project what materials we have and what we're going to need, and it helps in terms of scheduling and planning," she said. "All of those things are what make a good project come together."

After spending so much time together on the same project, many of the crew members cite the camaraderie and brotherhood that working together has helped foster. Marvin Syrett, a foreman for levels 2 and 3, has known Macleod for more than 20 years and has been an IBEW member for 25 years. Syrett was also a union member in his native England.

"My favorite part of this job has been working with a good crew," said Syrett. "I've made some great friends throughout the industry. We're brothers, you know!"

The crew also enjoyed a recent visit from Local 11 Business Manager Joël Barton, who met with crew members and answered their questions. Barton, who came out of the trades and spent 20 years working on projects like this one, noted that members appreciate seeing him on the scene and like to ask him questions about, among other things, IBEW's benefits and pensions.

"That's kind of a common theme, and, of course, IBEW 11's benefits and wages are tremendous," Barton said. "Also, being together as a local union brotherhood — we have each other's backs. So, I think people like and appreciate that."



# Members Speak Out

Providence Cedars-Sinai  
Tarzana Medical Center

*"The quality craftsmanship that the union brings to this project is going to provide a class A project to the client in the end. The guys out here, they take pride in their work."*



— ALICE ZEGERS  
foreman

*"I like a lot of things about being in the union. The pay is really good and the benefits and pension are outstanding. I've made some good friends throughout the industry. We're brothers, you know!"*



— MARVIN SYRETT  
foreman

*"It's great knowing they'll be taking care of patients here soon, that patients will be in these rooms and there will be doctors and nurses and everybody doing good work. It's awesome knowing that I'm working on something that is going to help people."*



— BEN GUTIERREZ  
inside wireman apprentice

*"I have definitely had a good career and I have been able to provide for my family. Because of the union, we have been able to live in a decent way and provide anything we have needed for over 30 years. I haven't missed a lot of work in that whole time which is a blessing in itself."*



— JON KENYON  
general foreman, single line crew

# Fun for All at Annual Union Picnic

**I**BEW 11 families were raring to go for this year's annual union picnic at Hollywood Sports Park on Saturday, Oct. 23.

Nearly 2,000 members and their families showed up for the day-long event which included bounce houses, face painting, games, prizes, bingo, horseshoes, food, a cigar lounge for the adults, and raffles galore. Kaiser Permanente was on hand with its mobile healthcare clinic at the event, giving

out free vaccines, boosters, flu shots and body scans. More than 100 members signed up for these potentially life-saving healthcare offerings that can often detect problems early on and help save members' lives.

A shoutout to all the raffle winners, and a special congratulations to Orlando Ponce, an Inside Wireman whose wife's winning ticket earned him and his family a 75" flat screen TV. Check out all the great photos on the Local 11 website.





## BROTHERHOOD

*Continued from the cover*

Though Local 11 has made an effort in recent years recruiting military veterans, that emphasis nationally has been inconsistent at best. Enter the Veteran's Electrical Entry Program, or VEEP. According to the program's website, VEEP's mission is to provide "transitioning service members and recently separated veterans the ability to reenter the civilian workforce in a high demand field that offers excellent earning potential."

"It allows them a direct pathway to get into our apprenticeship programs within the IBEW," said Mike Kufchak, IBEW 11 organizer and Director of Veteran Affairs. Kufchak said that VEEP originated approximately five years ago, and there is a renewed effort to promote it. "It hasn't gained the traction or the momentum that it was intended to gain."

VEEP is a national pre-apprentice program offered by the Electrical Training Alliance (ETA), a collaboration between the IBEW and the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA). A retired military member or one who is in the last 180 days of service can join the free seven-week course of study. Upon completion, he or she will be placed in a local apprenticeship program.

When there is mutual interest between a local military base and a nearby training center, the ETA works to get a training agreement in place. Unfortunately, training is currently only offered in Anchorage, Alaska with Local 1547. Thus the current re-emphasis of the program is to remove the burden of having to relocate to

Alaska for training for seven weeks by offering more training locales.

"As I started researching the program, what I found out was that we were sitting on a diamond mine and we just didn't know it at the time," Kufchak said, noting that southern California is home to numerous military installations, including March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in San Diego County. "We're on a fast track to soon develop our own resident program."

Before joining IBEW 11 in 2014, Kufchak spent 32 years in the Marines, retiring as a Sergeant Major. He knows what military vets can offer in the civilian world.

"We see them as an absolute genuine fit: reliable, responsible, dependable, accountable, drug-free and in some situations they even have security clearances which can be vastly utilized," Kufchak said. "Our contractors absolutely love these veterans for what they bring to the table."

Ashby, a Los Angeles County native, entered the Army in 1991 as a 17-year-old right out of high school. He originally planned to serve for three years and then attend college, but he loved military life and stayed enlisted in the Army and then the Army National Guard until his retirement in 2013. A Business Management degree from Columbia College-Los Alamitos followed, but Ashby still hadn't found a satisfying career until he saw that e-mail about Local 11 looking for military veterans to join its apprenticeship program.

Ashby had no experience as an electrician, but he was a combat engineer in the Army and not opposed to hard work.

"I thought, 'This sounds



interesting. I get to work with my hands again," Ashby, 48, said. "It's what I like to do. I feel good when I build something."

Ashby didn't join IBEW 11 through VEEP, but he emphasized the importance the local places on veteran recruitment and the value of having former military members in the fold.

"If we can raise a veteran community within our local and the apprenticeship, it helps us bid for jobs and get more work," Ashby said, adding that the veteran caucus within the Local is a "brotherhood within a brotherhood."

Kufchak hopes to have a local VEEP program up and running in 2022, continuing IBEW 11's efforts with military veterans. He maintains that the marriage between veterans and the building trades is natural: contractors get

trained, dependable electricians and former military members get career jobs with union benefits

"It's just another way of providing opportunities and options for our transitioned service members to get into a good union trade, to provide for themselves and, of course, for their families," Kufchak said. "I prefer to capture these young men and women as they're conducting their transition from the military rather than having them discover the hard way after couch surfing for a year or two years, figuring out what in life it is they want to do. I like to get out there early and present these opportunities and options to them."

To learn more about the Veterans Electrical Entry Program, visit [In2VEEP.com](http://In2VEEP.com).

## Inside Wiremen, Traffic Signal Wiremen and Railroad Signalers Vote on Allocation

Allocation votes have been tallied for the Inside Wiremen, Traffic Signal Wiremen and Railroad Signalers classifications.

In each classification, Option A was the winner.

The vote broke down as follows: Of the 1,460 votes cast by Inside Wireman, 1,010 voted for Option A: \$1.50 to wages, \$.35 to D.C. pension, \$.20 to H.R.A., \$.05 to Training. 450 voted for Option B.

For Traffic Signal Wiremen, of the 76 ballots cast, 62 voted for



Option A: \$1.70 to wages, \$.25 to D.C. pension, \$.10 to H.R.A., \$.05 to Training. 14 voted for Option B.

For Railroad Signalers, all 17 of the 17 votes cast were for Option A: \$1.21 to wages, \$.50 to D.C. pension, \$.01 to H.R.A.

## Hogs for Toys

Iron Workers Local 433 held a multi-union motorcycle club holiday toy drive. Local 11 joined in the fun, participating in the November 21 ride.



# Working Energized Equipment

By Mike Costigan

Having worked 35 plus years in the trade, I've seen a few things. One notable part of the job involves working on energized equipment. Sooner or later, you will be asked - or you will decide on your own - to work on equipment or with conductors that are energized.

Your decision could change your life forever. Every week, three workers die from exposure to electricity and thousands are injured by electrical hazards every year.

There are several factors that determine if an accident will end

up as an accident or a fatality: the amount of current, the duration of the current going through the body, and the path which the current takes through the body just to name a few.

But the good news is that there are ways to minimize or even remove the hazard. Let's start with personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE is the last form of protection in the Hierarchy of Controls. This would include insulated tools, rated gloves, a hardhat with face shield and arc-rated clothing. There are four arc-rated categories of PPE. This rating is determined by an arc flash assessment using a process of calculating arc flash hazards outlined in IEEE 1584.

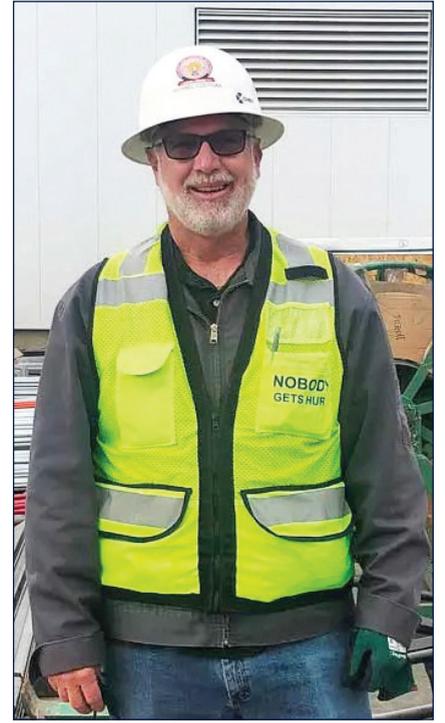
Working our way up the Hierarchy of Controls, you'll find engineering controls. This means isolating the worker from the hazard. Lock Out / Tag Out (LOTO) is the most common procedure you'll find in the field. If you are planning on working on normally energized equipment, make sure that your employer has a comprehensive LOTO in place. Make sure you fully understand

their procedures, and if you are the worker who is going to be performing the work, insist they provide you with a lock that only you have a key for.

Most of our larger projects require a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA). As I stated before, this is the most important tool in your toolbox. It puts your mind in the game by having you plan every step of the task to a safe completion. If you are on a job where JHAs are not required, make a personal JHA.

Working energized or normally energized equipment requires your full attention. The IBEW and ETI are here to provide you with the knowledge and training. What you do with that knowledge could be the difference between life and death.

*Stay safe.*



## The choices you make working with energized equipment could be the difference between life and death.

## 'Kindness Doesn't Kill': Meet Rosendin's Alice Zegers

By Evan Henerson

Last-minute changes? Supply-chain uncertainty? A \$28 million hospital project moving into the home stretch?

None of these factors phases foreman Alice Zegers.

"We're getting into the peak of the job," Zegers said during an interview on the third floor of the Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center (PCSTMC). "This is the time when I work better, under pressure. This is the time to shine."

Zegers, who will celebrate 25 years with Rosendin in 2022, has a lengthy history with the hospital. She helped with designs in the company's detailing department in 2017 before taking some time off and then spending the following five years as general foreman for Rosendin's work on Ventura County Medical Center. Zegers returned to the PCSTMC site as a

foreman in April.

This kind of work is in the Zegers family DNA. Alice's father, Mike Zegers, was a contractor and lineman who later ran his own business, often with Alice coming along and, eventually, working for him. When it came time to consider college, Mike recommended his daughter join the apprenticeship program. In her first year, Alice Zegers signed on as a pre-apprentice. The following year, she was picked #1.

From those early years up to the present, the construction life has suited Zegers.

"I like being outdoors, not being in an office," she said. "I like being able to move around and interact with different people and being challenged all the time. I tell my guys, 'We are a can-do-it company.' When they say, 'I can't,' I say, 'Come on, let's figure out an alternative.'"

That attitude has served her well on the Tarzana site.

Hospital additions and upgrades come with lots of changes and reconfigurations, including sometimes going in and ripping out something that was just installed. Working during the COVID-19 pandemic has meant dealing with uncertainty in material availability and supply chain scheduling.

"As far as the pandemic, that has caused us to reconfigure things and be creative, convincing the client that there are alternatives and getting them to accept them," Zegers said. "At this level of construction, everything is specs, and you can't deviate from the specs. So, it's a big deal when you find out you can't get the brands you need because they're stuck out on a boat somewhere."

Zegers runs a crew of 11, including five apprentices and six journeymen. Working with a union crew means individuals taking pride in their work and delivering



quality craftsmanship, she said.

"I've been doing this for a while, and I try to take the lessons I've learned from the past — whether it be teaching an apprentice or showing the guys how to get the job done, keeping them happy, and keeping Rosendin happy," said Zegers. "I like to show that kindness doesn't kill."

**DISTRICT 1 (SOUTH)**  
**Shomari Davis**

The Intuit Dome (Clippers arena) has awarded more electrical contracts to NECA contractors. CSI Electric has been awarded some work. Sasco Electric has been awarded single line. BEC has been awarded fire alarm and On Target has been awarded the conduit and raceways for the BEC fire alarm contract.

Belvedere Middle School in East L.A. is a \$100 Million dollar project for which the electrical contract has been awarded to Rosendin Electric.

Seed Project on Vermont Avenue and Manchester Boulevard has been awarded to Touchstone Electric. This is a two-year project.

Rosendin Electric is doing a Los Angeles City housing project at Crenshaw Electric that is in its early stages. It will be the first City of L.A. project where they're stacking prefabricated containers on top of each other.

CSI Electric has been awarded a new Student union building at L.A. Southwest College which will be starting in December.

It is indeed an honor to serve you at IBEW Local 11. Everyone, have a merry Christmas and happy holidays.

**DISTRICT 3**  
**Mike Costigan**

Happy Holidays from District 3

It's hard to believe that it's almost time to close the book on 2021. And just like the previous few years, we came in with a very respectful amount on manhours worked in our local. The conventions are coming back as well as all the other projects going on local wide. Large and small. And all this work is helping to fuel an earlier than expected recovery of our pension.

By the time you read this, most if not all Districts will have already held their December holiday meetings. Hopefully you were able to attend yours. It's a great opportunity to see old friends as well as make new ones. As for the work picture here on the westside, we saw in the media that the Los Angeles Chargers will be building their training facility here in El Segundo. It will be located on the south side of

the Raytheon E-1 building where a parking lot currently sits. Updates to follow.

I have also learned that Apple is going to be expanding in Culver City. The complex will encompass more than 550,000 square feet once completed. There continues to be calls for LAX, notably Delta Terminal 3 and the ConRAC project. I am also eagerly awaiting news to report from the Terminal 9 and Concourse 0 projects.

As always, if you see a construction or read about something in your local media, please notify the agent in that area. We will investigate and get the information out to the members. The IBEW works best when we all work together.

Please have a safe and enjoyable Holiday.

**DISTRICT 4**  
**Marc Greenfield**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of District 4.

We did it! We made it through this year pretty much in one piece. Hopefully, every year from now on, will be better than the year before.

Next year is looking like a banner year for work with many large and small projects on the books, promising plenty of work for everyone.

I would like to thank my secretary, Heather, the unit officers, and the Welfare Committee and volunteers for helping make D4 the great district it is!

Be safe on the job and watch out for Your Brothers and Sisters. I hope everyone has a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year.

**DISTRICT 5**  
**Mitch Klein**

Happy Holidays Brothers & Sisters,

As we are at the end of the year, work continues to hold steadfast. Our contractors have been hiring for several projects in the area. We have Ferreira Const. working the 25 MW solar Project at Lockheed. Rosendin Electric is working the 25 MW Solar job in West Lancaster. Sargent Electric is working the 125 MW Battery Storage project. Taft Electric is continuing with work throughout Antelope Valley College and with several contractors working in the Palmdale School District, Palmdale Hospital and our Kaiser Facilities in Lancaster and Palmdale. Work at the defense plants slowed for a while due to the end of their fiscal year. We have several good size projects that

will start in 2022 such as the High-Speed Rail, Antelope Valley Hospital Medical Village and the Green Hydrogen project to name a few.

If you are interested in taking a class to keep your state license current or to better yourself, please call or come into the District 5 office to add your name to the list. All classes in District 5 through the Electrical Training Institute count toward ongoing education hours for state licensing.

I would like to personally thank our officers, members and volunteers for all their participation, hard work and activism in making District 5 and Local 11 great: Alfredo Torres, King Moore, Mike Kaminski, Dion Jensen, Ron Dreiling, Chris Bonifillo, Steve Joyner, Beto Gonzales, Summer Trout, Miguel Sanchez, Romeo Gonzalez, Dalton Yong, Al Lopez. Byron Gonzalez, Jacqueline Torres, Emily Gonzales, Leslie Gonzalez, Sharon Gonzales, Alexis Joyner, Sandra Gonzalez, Sebastian Gonzalez, Isabel Gonzalez, Maurice Washington, Brian Little, Jody Lee, Don Rigney, Steven Irwin, Roy McBain, Ray McBain, Jason Stout, Andy Rosete, Ruben Santana, Felipe Figueroa, Ian Gibson, Dave Gomez, Kathy MacLaren, Kris Mendoza, Peter Sisson, Alton and Ligeia Wilkerson. Special thanks to our Business Manager Joël Barton and President Rusty Roten for all their help and support of District 5.

Take care, be safe and God bless the IBEW.

**DISTRICT 6**  
**Jacob Troncoza**

Hello to all.

It's an honor to serve and help out our brothers and sisters during this season. As we all know, work tends to slow down a bit during this time of the year. However, we do have work coming down the pipeline with EV infrastructure installs throughout our district in Pomona, Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights in our backyard.

We have had many events such as the Veterans Day barbecue. Thank you to all who helped out the staff members, putting in the work on their own time. It is truly appreciated. There are also many unit meetings and festivities coming up which present an opportunity to meet some current members of the Local 11 administration as well as some good brothers and sisters throughout our great local.

I hope all is well as can be with you and your

# Serving the Community

The IBEW Local 11 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) held its annual Day of Service in November, helping the Church of the Transfiguration with its Homeless Connect effort. Men and women experiencing homelessness were given hot meals, groceries, clothes, toiletries and COVID tests and vaccines. The EWMC meets every third Saturday at 9 a.m. in the sub-committee room of the ETI.



families. Feel free to give me a call regarding anything I can do to help you during these times. Let's be safe out there, work diligently, and be there for one another and, God willing, arrive in the new year on a good foot.

Thank you for your time and your cooperation. Take good care of yourself and yours and may God bless the union!

## REFINERY Manny Solis

**Marathon Refinery – Wilmington** – Schultz Mechanical is completing much of the tank farm work inside Marathon Refinery. Our men and women are doing excellent work for Schultz Mechanical. There are a few small projects at Marathon Refinery still slated to continue through the end of this year. Schultz is looking to use the current manpower to complete their scheduled work.

**Valero Refinery – Wilmington** – Schultz has a few small turn-around projects inside the Valero Refinery. Schultz will possibly need a few more journeymen at the Valero Refinery in the fourth quarter of this year. Members will need the RSO20 training card and the TWIC card to accept a job at the Valero Refinery. California Spectra Electric also has turn-around work scheduled in the Valero-Wilmington Refinery in early 2022. Cal Spectra has work in a few different units of the refinery and will need manpower. Spectra will need certified level "B" instrumentation technicians, journeymen wireman and apprentices for this work.

**PBF Refinery – Torrance** – M.B. Herzog will need certified level "B" instrumentation technicians and a few certified journeymen wiremen for upcoming turn-around work in the fourth quarter of this year. The requirements to work at PBF – Torrance are the RSO 20 and the TWIC card.

**World Energy Refinery** – Paramount- Work at World Energy - Paramount Petroleum is looking to get started with the new contract work by the end of this year. Newtron Electric is waiting for the AQMD permit so they can begin the demo and rebuild of much of the old Paramount Refinery.

Both Newtron Electric and California Spectra Electric have been awarded the first of many contracts for much of this very fine work inside what will be the new World Energy Refinery. The first contract will require both of our electrical contractors to hire IBEW Journeymen, Certified Instrumentation Technicians and IBEW Apprentices for this new contract. The RSO20 training card will be needed to take a call out to World Energy Refinery. Newtron Electric is looking to begin work at the World Energy facility and will be placing an initial call for approximately 50 inside wiremen and women. Newtron Electric will also be placing calls for apprentices. California Spectra Electric will also get started at this refinery in the early part of 2022 and will be placing a handful of calls for all classifications.

**Other Refineries** – As the fourth quarter approaches, work in many other refineries will also be coming. Many of our other contractors working in the refineries are looking to acquire much-needed manpower in the winter months of 2021. So stay current with the RSO20 training card and keep your TWIC card current in order to take a call out to these refineries.

## COMPLIANCE Veronica Martinez

In my 2020 end of year report, I shared how the pandemic shifted the way PLA pre-jobs and grievance meetings were conducted. Overnight, our industry pivoted from in-person meetings to exclusively on-line. The initial intent of the online platform was to maintain the compliance framework while construction work continued during the pandemic. However, what also emerged was an unanticipated improvement in transparency and frequency of pre-job meetings.

In the spirit of sharing transparency in Compliance Departments activities, I am happy to share valuable statistics and achievements to date during the 2021 year:

- ▶ **581** pre jobs held in which IBEW Local 11 participated
- ▶ **250** new Subscription Agreements processed which resulted in new PLA employers and projects to which members were dispatched
- ▶ **\$260,000+** wages and benefits recovered by the Compliance Department because of underpayments
- ▶ **36** grievances filed and settled out of arbitration
- ▶ **16** new PLAs IBEW 11 entered into in Los Angeles County

We give many thanks to our members who have exercised their voices and contacted their Business Agents with issues they have found on the project sites. Each one of you is critical in the Compliance Department's duties and your contributions do not go unnoticed. Know that the Compliance Department is here to listen and help whether you have questions or see something awry with other tradespeople on a job.

We also give thanks to our Business Agents

who have stepped in, no matter where they may be in L.A. County, to provide backup by logging on and covering pre-jobs. Each pre-job can take up to an hour, which means we have collectively participated in over 581 hours of pre-jobs so far this year. That's a lot of "Zoom" for an industry that wasn't introduced to the concept until April 2020. With deep sincerity, I thank you for being available, willing and adaptable.

Lastly, thank you to Eric Brown and Roxann Roman who make up the Compliance Department. It takes a team to coordinate meetings, settle jurisdictional disputes and familiarize new contractors to function as union employers.

I look forward to providing you more updates in the upcoming year. All the best in the upcoming holiday season and let's all take the time to count our blessings.

## SOUND & COMMUNICATIONS Chuck Webb

This year has been a unique experience for our Sound & Communications Unit. Even with COVID-19, we have seen continued growth, with a little less than 10% through transfer and organizing. With our membership numbers now well over 900, with so few members on the "Out of Work" books and so few unfilled job calls, the future seems to be full of promise and growth for us.

By the time you read this, one of our members will have gone home with a new LCD TV and other members have cashed in on gift cards and tools. We've had our holiday gathering and hopefully no one went home disappointed.

Let's raise a toast to the past. It helps guide our future.

Work safe and play hard.

# A Day of Giving Back in Long Beach

With its grill at the ready to feed the volunteers, Local 11 turned out at the Union Veterans Community Food Distribution event at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Long Beach. This Veterans Day event sponsored by the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, and the Port of Long Beach, helped feed hundreds of families in need.



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## E-BOARD

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Alfaro said. "If I was to look back at the different projects I ran, what would stand out to me is the members I've been able to help along the way."

A familiar face in the local, Alfaro was on staff with Local 11 for 11 years as a business agent and organizer. He moved between the two classifications and taught while working in the field. Encouraged to run for the executive board during the last election, Alfaro found himself seeking office for the first time, despite being toward what he called the tail-end of his career.

"I've always enjoyed helping people — helping members — whether it's out in the field helping them with the trade or in the classroom," Alfaro said. "I firmly believe in the IBEW and what it's done for me in my career over my 30-something years."

Alfaro is supportive of the union's desire to increase training. He noted that the union's support of its membership is unparalleled within organized labor.

"When I was on staff, it was not uncommon for staff members to attend funerals for members who had passed away," he said. "I recall going to a funeral in Bakersfield because one of our members who was traveling there had passed away. I went there to represent Local 11, even though it wasn't our jurisdiction."

Asked about his goals on the executive board, Alfaro put it simply: "I plan to do my job as an executive board member, and do it well."



## RENEW Friendsgiving Potluck

Local 11's Reach out and Engage Next-Gen Electrical Workers (RENEW) hosted a "Friendsgiving" holiday potluck on Saturday, Nov. 20 at the District 6 Hall in Diamond Bar. It was a great opportunity to bring our favorite Thanksgiving dishes to share with our sisters and brothers.



## 40 Years and Counting!

Daniel Gonzales, pictured here with District 6 Business Rep Jacob Troncoza, earned his 40 year pin with Local 11. Congratulations!



## The Color of Solidarity

Thousands of union members wear red shirts on Wednesdays as a sign of solidarity. When a sea of red shirts greet management, it is a way to let them know that the workers stand together.

Local 11 RENEW members put their best red foot forward in October in supporting of striking UAW workers.

The modern tradition dates back to 1989 with the Communications Workers of America (CWA) whose members wear red on Thursdays. Gerry Horgan was a CWA chief steward for Westchester County in New York who died in August 1989 while he was working a picket line. He left behind a wife and two daughters. The vehicle that struck him was driven by a scab who was never charged. CWA members wear their red shirts on Thursdays to remember Horgan and the sacrifices he made protecting the picket line.

Wearing the red shirt to show solidarity took on extra meaning during Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's relentless attacks on labor. Unionists around the country wanted to show solidarity with Wisconsin and donned red shorts once a week.

Today wearing a red shirt remains an act of showing unity, both to one another and to the world. It is not anti-management. It is a positive statement of workers standing together.

