



IBEW 11 Opens Its Doors to Labor Ally U.S. Representative Adam Schiff



At Meet-And-Greet Barbecue at District 4 Headquarters Rep. Schiff Says Union's Future Brighter Than Ever

IBEW 11 opened its doors Friday to longtime labor ally U.S. Representative Adam Schiff, who updated members on the slew of new federal legislation that is now bringing billions of dollars in new infrastructure, green energy and technology investments to California to create thousands of brand-new job opportunities for union members.

At a midday, meet-and-greet barbecue at IBEW's 11's San Fernando headquarters, Rep. Schiff joined

members over lunch delivered hot off the grill from the union yard and emphasized the critical role unions will play serving as the backbone for President Biden's once-in-a-generation Blue Collar Blueprint to rebuild America.

"Organized labor is central to a middle-class way of life and helping people become part of the middle class," Rep. Schiff said. "Without labor there would be no middle class, and labor is the only thing that allows working people to band together. I'm so proud since my first

days in office to stand shoulder to shoulder with labor, and I will continue to fight for things like higher wages and better access to more affordable healthcare to ensure we create a sustained, thriving middle class. That's a key solution to the economic challenges we face."

Congressman Schiff cited three new federal investment programs as critical kick starters that will spark a flood of new jobs for union members: the \$1.2 trillion federal infrastructure law – the largest investment in

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THE NEWSLETTER OF IBEW LOCAL 11

NEWS @ 11

COMET Training Drives Home the Value of Union Membership

By Oren Peleg

What is union membership all about? How do unions help their members and recruit new ones? What is the history of our union, IBEW 11? These questions are at the center of the Construction Organizing Membership Education

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Christine Austria-Lozoya
Empowering Women



The Culture is Changing
at ETI



Congratulate Our New
CADEM Delegates



BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Joël Barton

Organizing is Our Lifeblood, Diversity is Our Strength, and Work is in the Pipeline

Dear Brothers and Sisters, In the wise words of Martin Luther King, Jr., we must all overcome hate to create a better world for ourselves and our children. February may be Black History Month, where we celebrate the accomplishments of so many of our Black leaders, but overcoming hatred is a year-round endeavor.

I'm writing this column from the annual Business Managers and Organizers conference in Las Vegas. I'm here with 22 of our Local 11 staff members because organizing is that important. Why do we preach that organizing is the lifeblood of our union? Because the more union density we have in our sector of the construction industry the more leverage we have at the bargaining table.

As members you all know the value of union membership. Now we just have to let our non-union

brothers and sisters in on the secret of the difference a union card will make in their lives. We are in workshops and general sessions here, sharing problems and solutions about organizing best practices and other issues with IBEW members from around the country. Of course, as one of the biggest and most progressive locals in the country, IBEW 11 leads the way in many of these areas: diversity, organizing contractors and new members, safety and more. That's why we win so many awards. And in the spirit of giving back, it is our job to help our smaller IBEW locals around the country learn from us.

Work Picture

I also want to talk to some of our younger and newer members about the current work picture. As someone who has been through five work downturns in my career, I promise you: things will get better – soon. But my mentors who had seen a thing or two in their years in the industry told me to save, because tough times were coming. So, I saved up six months of salary, and it came in handy. In fact, I still have my old '68 F100 Ford truck

from those days. I know you worry when work is slow, but I want to assure you there is light at the end of the tunnel. Some of the slowdown is seasonal – winter is a slow time of year in our industry. And some of it is simply the slow mechanisms of government.

You've all read the headlines and our reports to you each month about the huge infrastructure projects that are getting funded in Washington, DC and all the clean energy projects coming out of Sacramento. I promise you, there is much work in the pipeline that will keep us busy for decades. The \$1 trillion infrastructure bill President Biden passed last year is in addition to the hospitals, stadiums and other local projects that are currently in the works. We just have to be patient right now.

Here are a few tips to help you get through these tough times.

Look at all of your union benefits. Apply for Unemployment. Don't forget to apply for the supplemental unemployment as well – that's an extra \$50/week for apprentices, and \$100/week for journeymen. And in the most recent negotiations, we got

an extra \$200/week for full-time day school students who are out of work. Remember, side-hustles are okay too, as long as they're not non-union electrical work. Don't be afraid to reach out to your agents with any questions. That's why we're here.

I also wanted to mention that there have been some changes in dispatch. We now have a permanent, full-time security guard to make sure everyone at dispatch is safe. I ask you to extend every courtesy and be respectful of our guard and of each other at dispatch.

One final note: I want to welcome all our new legislators in Sacramento. A few staff members joined me earlier this month in Sacramento for a State Building Trades sponsored 'meet and greet' with many of the newly elected officers to get to know them and, more importantly, for them to get to know us and our issues. We will be talking to them about our issues and concerns for many years to come.

Stay safe, stay dry.

In Solidarity,
Joël Barton
IBEW 11 Business Manager

IBEW 11's NEWS@11

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Rusty Roten

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Keep Local Work for Local Members



Brothers and Sisters, I would like to talk to you about visiting members working in local 11 jurisdiction. When times are good and there's an abundance of work in our jurisdiction, we are welcoming and allow our visiting brothers and sisters to clear in or sign book 2 and go to work. Because work is plentiful,

we're willing to share. When times are lean however, the work that's available is supposed to be for the local members, and our visiting brothers and sisters are supposed to move on or move home. This is the "unwritten rule" of all IBEW members, and it refers more to courtesy and our local hospitality. The members who have been working side by side with our

visitors are supposed to be tactful and respectfully thank them for helping to uphold local 11's name and urge them to move along and allow the local members to get off the books and back to work in their home area. Some of our visitors don't understand or are reluctant to comply. Let your local agents know, and continue to do the best quality work for your employer.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, give the agent a call or call the locals offices.
In Solidarity,
Gaylord "Rusty" Roten
President IBEW Local #11

Christine Austria-Lozoya On a Constant Mission to Empower Women

An IBEW Local 11 member since 2004 and Journeyman Sound Installer since 2008, Christine Austria-Lozoya has served in leadership roles since 2018, when she joined as a Sound Organizer. In 2021 she was the first woman elected Recording Secretary, and in 2022 she also transitioned to Business Agent. We caught up with her about her new roles, her efforts to empower other women, and her vision for the future.

How are you working to involve more women in leadership?
We are trying to get a women's committee chartered, because we don't have one here yet. And we also have EMPOWER, through the (NECA-IBEW) Electrical Training Center, where the goal is to pair journeyman with apprentices as mentors. There are women out in the field I worked with and watched grow. I put that little bug in superintendents' ears and say, 'Look, she may be overlooked. You should take a better look at what she's doing - she works hard, gets the job done, she's smart.' It's only fair. So, I do try to advocate for (women) out in the field. And a lot of supervisors, it does open their eyes to it.

industry. We don't live in a utopian world, but slowly but surely, more women are getting into it.
How are you finding ways to mentor the younger generation?
I go to these meetings, and I speak to women. When they're in the application process, I have them call me. I let them know what being out in the construction field is all about. I try to make them understand what they're getting themselves into. I try to empower them in advance.



have a lot of male coworkers, even out in the field, who mentored me to get here. I see it more, I do: there are more men here willing to rally behind women, and to help them.

How has your leadership at IBEW evolved over the years?
When I was asked to be on staff as a Sound Organizer, it was surprising because to be honest I never thought of myself in this role. My mind was always on the trade. I had to be out in field, I became a foreman, working my way up. I was very involved within my unit (Sound and Telecommunications). I did political work, door knocking, precinct walks, phone banking - so people start to recognize you.

To see a woman in (my) position (as recording secretary), that's a sense of, 'You can do this. You can be here if you want to.' It just takes that visual: If one woman can do it, we all can.
What barriers do you see impacting women who might otherwise be interested in joining the trade?

What are some challenges you face as a female in leadership?
I think the challenge for me is the respect. You still get some individuals that may overlook you or may not want to hear your thoughts. Not just IBEW - outside, everything. It's discouraging. My mom always instilled in me, 'Roll your shoulders back, sit up straight.' I tell my girls and other women coming in, 'When I sit there and feel I may be disrespected or dismissed, I have to remember [that].' Sometimes you just have to demand that respect.
How is the role of women evolving at IBEW? What have you personally seen since joining in 2004?

Looking ahead?
I never said I wanted to be president. I never said I wanted to be business manager. What I wanted to do was have a contribution within this Local. I'll be there because of my contribution to help get more women in the trade. I joke with (IBEW President) Rusty (Roten) that I'll be the president. And maybe that's where it starts; maybe you put that out in the universe. I'll let my work guide me there.

Being in these roles, you have to think of other people's wants and needs, and they're not all the same. You're a psychologist, you're a disciplinarian. It's very challenging, because you're not going to please everyone. And, you'd better have a thick skin, because there are going to be jabs, especially as a woman. But it is rewarding. It's very humbling and it's an honor to do this: It's a privilege - not a right.

It's hard as a woman, because there are not that many (of us). Empowering, teaching and advancing women in our trade is a main goal. Women are very articulate, they're multitaskers. We are extremely strong. That's something I instill in my own children. Not all men will embrace a female in the construction

Would I like for it to be faster?
Yes. But it is evolving. We had (former IBEW member) Liz Shuler just become president of AFL-CIO. We had Gina Cooper become vice president for IBEW International. I



LAEW's Super Bowl Party was the latest event where members and their families could connect and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood.

IBEW 11 Members Re-Launch the Latin American Electrical Workers Association

Revitalized LAEWA Helps Members Discover and Express Activism in New and Unique Ways

For IBEW 11 members, “brotherhood” and “sisterhood” aren’t phrases casually tossed around, and diversity, equality, and inclusion aren’t empty slogans that get paid lip service or get tacked on at the bottom of a web page. They are daily affirmations of union values.

So, when the idea of resurrecting the dormant Latin American Electrical Workers Association (LAEWA) surfaced in 2018 a core group of IBEW 11 members jumped at the opportunity to provide members access to a dedicated, inclusive community where they and their families could gather to strengthen bonds, spark activism, and forge deeper friendships on and off the job site.

One of the core members behind the relaunch of LAEWA is Francisco

“Paco” Arago, who said one of the primary motivators behind the revitalized Association was to provide union brothers and sisters with an outlet where they could both discover and express their activism in new and unique ways.

“LAEWA is about strengthening our local union so that we can fight for stronger contracts and build our numbers,” Arago said. “When a non-union guy joins the IBEW, and he comes to his first LAEWA event, they’re immediately impressed. They tell me, ‘I’ve never experienced anything like this in the non-union world.’ They immediately feel a sense of family. That’s what union is all about.”

Activism is infectious, Arago says, and the LAEWA provides members with a trusted space they can use to realize the fraternity of brotherhood and sisterhood that

makes the shared bond of union membership such a powerful force.

“We spend so much time with each other, sometimes more time than with our own families, so we become family in that sense,” Arago said. “We’ve got to continue to find intriguing, exciting, and innovative ways to build our ranks and grow, because if we’re not growing, we’re dying. We want people to come to one of our events and say, ‘This is amazing. How do I become a shop steward? I want to do more.’ That’s success right there.”

LAEWA member and IBEW 11 District 6 Organizer Tommy Zielomski agrees the club is a tool to unite brothers and sisters and inspire them to become more engaged and active advocates.

“Having clubs like LAEWA helps grow solidarity and camaraderie amongst the members,” Zielomski said. “It gives members an opportunity to be involved and participate within their union. I believe to take this local to the next level we need more participation from the membership, and LAEWA is one more way for members to get involved.”

LAEWA is comprised of an informal executive council who all share equal participation and equal voting rights and members gather, create consensus, and “do things that are best for the union.”

“We stay true to the mission of the IBEW: to organize every worker into their industry, and we see (the LAEWA) as an organizing tool – a way to build a sense of fraternity to completely fulfill our mission as IBEW members. (The IBEW) is 131 years old, and we respect and honor the original documents because they’ve stood the test of time. All we’re doing is making sure that everybody’s included in it,” Arago said.

IBEW 11 Sound and Communications Organizer Lali Castillo said the group offers members a vital sense of inclusion and involvement and helps them “feel seen in every way.”

“It’s important to build member solidarity because that’s what the brotherhood is all about,” Castillo said. “LAEWA is just another resource to be active. It helps IBEW 11 show how important it is to be diverse and have representation for all workers within the trade.”

Arago says he and his fellow LAEWA founders hope the club can inspire other chapters nationwide.

“We believe our duty to our union goes from our local level to our international level,” Arago said. “We believe that by starting this club, we’re serving our union and coming up with creative ways to be more inclusive. Maybe what we’re doing here might echo in Kansas City or Denver or New York.”

“LAEWA is about strengthening our local union so that we can fight for stronger contracts and build our numbers.”

– Francisco “Paco” Arago

ADAM SCHIFF

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infrastructure since President Eisenhower's Interstate Highway System – Inflation Reduction Act, which dedicates about \$400 billion to green-energy spending, and the CHIPS and Science Act, which provides more than \$50 billion to encourage manufacturers of semiconductors to build factories in the United States.

“These programs mean millions of good, high-paying jobs,” Rep. Schiff said. “We need to make sure that these projects go forward, that we rebuild this country, and we rebuild it with union labor.”

Congressman Schiff, who recently announced his campaign to seek the U.S. Senate seat to replace retiring Sen. Dianne Feinstein, said he is excited about advancing the interests of labor alongside one of the most pro-union Presidents in American history to create even greater opportunities that deliver high-wage jobs.

“President Biden is one of the

most pro-labor Presidents in my lifetime, and I don't think anyone understands the struggles of working people better than he does,” Rep. Schiff said.

IBEW 11 Business Manager Joël Barton said Rep. Schiff's proven track record as a vocal supporter of labor, his championing universal health care, his dedication to defending democracy, and his leadership in fighting to protect the planet make him a powerful union ally.

“Congressman Schiff has always supported working men and women and local unions at the bargaining table,” said IBEW 11 Business Manager Joël Barton. “He's written laws to ensure all workers received just employment compensation during the pandemic and been instrumental in passage of the bipartisan infrastructure package as well as the CHIPS Act, which will ensure union jobs stay here instead of being shipped overseas. We look forward to continue working with him as he continues to stand up for working men and women.”



APPRENTICE CORNER

The Culture Is Changing at IBEW 11's ETI

I walked into ETI Director David Nott's office with the very last of hope I could muster. Unfortunately, the past four years as an apprentice has depleted most of my hope that the status quo would change. Within a few minutes of a two-hour meeting with David, my thoughts began to change.

I was not expecting a willingness to be heard or to have any of my suggestions considered. I slowly began to understand that the person on the other side of the desk had similar objectives and desires as I did: to create an educational facility we could all be proud of.

Hearing the Director's acknowledgment that there are issues and areas of concern in the way the ETI conducts business was refreshing. It was the first time in three years that I heard a sense of accountability from the institution.

Nott did not spend much time speaking the obvious. On the contrary, it was all about the changes that will be taking place.

One of the changes will modify the instructor-to-apprentice ratio. Any given class will have a minimum of 12 and maximum of

20 students per class. The objective is to have no more than 350 apprentices attending class at any given night.

Additionally, a second instructor will be added to all major labs to improve lectures and hands-on instruction. Not only did he have the apprenticeship in mind but that of Journeymen as well. By moving all fourth-year classes to day school it was possible to create classroom space for Journeyman-level classes such as Foremanship to be taught during the evening.

Other key factors Nott plans to improve are accountability and communication. Long gone will be the days of reaching an automated operator when calling the ETI office. He plans to eliminate the current phone system and hire two full-time staff members to answer calls.

A 24-hour response standard will be the new norm. This standard ensures that a member's request for information or to speak to a specific staff member will be completed within 24 hours. He has also appointed day and night Senior Instructors specific to classifications (I/W, Sound, Transportation, etc.).

The implementation of only two contact email addresses for Senior Instructors will alleviate apprentices falling between the cracks or just simply not having their emails read. Day school apprentices will be able to contact senior instructors at awdayschool@laett.com and night school apprentices at awnight@laett.com

The most impressive change will be a technological one: Hybrid Lecturing. I was shown a classroom that is being outfitted with this new technology. Apprentices will soon be able to attend class in two ways: in-class or online. This hybrid system will give apprentices the option on any given class night to attend class from home or at the ETI.

During our walkthrough of the ETI I asked Nott what one thing he would like me to relay to the apprenticeship. His response surprised me.

David said he gives tours of the ETI to influential individuals. They are very impressed with our advanced facility and the modern technology, but he is embarrassed to show them our classrooms. The sight of plastic chairs and picnic tables are an eyesore, as are the marks of boot



scuffs on the back wall. He told me he would love to purchase comfortable seats and individual desks. All he needs is an act of good faith from all of us that we will respect and take care of our institution.

I choose to believe that the change we have all been wanting for is here, and we will be seeing it take place soon. Yes, the culture is changing at the ETI. Will we as an apprenticeship be changing with it as well?

*In Solidarity,
Cristopher Rodriguez,
President, Apprentice Council
5th Year I/W Apprentice*

DISTRICT 2
Gary Tomlin

Greetings, brothers and sisters. Here's the list of current and upcoming projects in District 2.

Current Projects:

- ▶Conti: Rooftop solar project called Alta Sea in San Pedro.
- ▶DSP Electrical Contractors is at Carson City Hall.
- ▶Siege: At Pier 400 on Navy Way.
- ▶Gregg Electric: Boeing Enclave new tilt ups by Long Beach Airport.
- ▶M. Wilson Company: Bellflower Maintenance Yard project.
- ▶Neubauer Elect: Cerritos Comm College Health/Science Building

Upcoming Projects:

- ▶Harbor UCLA, five-year-plus project Rosendin/Meadows JV
- ▶The Front Street Beautification Project, which is the renovation of Ports O' Call Village in San Pedro.
- ▶New Tilt ups at the corner of 190th Street & Western Avenue.

PLA's:

- ▶El Camino College: five-year construction plan
 - ▶MWD: 150 MGD Purification Center in Carson
 - ▶City of Long Beach: \$100-Million Belmont Beach & Aquatics Center
 - ▶Bonds Passed:
 - ▶Measure Q: \$1.7 Billion, Long Beach Unified School District
 - ▶Measure AAA: \$350 Million, Compton Unified School District
 - ▶Measure CC: \$425 Million, Cerritos Community College
- Contract negotiations are coming up. Get ready to submit your ideas for what you would like to see changed.

DISTRICT 4
Marc Greenfield

Greetings from District 4.

I hope everyone is having a good new year. I know work has been slow recently, but I am confident that a number of upcoming projects I have been reporting on will be starting soon.

We have a PLA on the Metro project to install 6.7 miles of track from North Hollywood to Sylmar, with 11 stations and a maintenance yard in Van Nuys. We also have a PLA on the 14-gate replacement project at Burbank Airport. The Los Angeles/Orange County Building Trades are sure that there will be an agreement between them and Stan Kroenke when he builds the L.A. Ram's Training Facility in the West Valley.

I would like to thank all of the members who regularly attend our Unit Meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. These meetings are short and informative, and we have a 50/50 drawing as well as some great food. Hopefully, we will see more of you there! Until then!

DISTRICT 6
Jacob Troncoza

Hello, brothers and sisters. I hope you are keeping safe and are staying in good health. District 6 has multiple jobs that have been called at Dispatch. Mt. San Antonio Collect (Mt. Sac.) has had much work with many Union Contractors on-site. There will be more Union jobs to come there. Queen of the Valley Hospital electrical is still continuing, as does HLPUSD work in our district, with more to come soon.

We have been attending Pomona/Pasadena City Council meetings, and we will need volunteers to attend as we capture and chase projects.

Many thanks to all who participate and help our Union efforts. I want to personally thank our long-term members who have paved the way for us as officers, members as well as our activists. Take good care, and may God bless the Union and all of you.

CE/CW
Jackie Waltman

Greetings brothers and sisters from your Apprentice and CW/CE Representative.

I wanted to let all CWs and CEs who don't have their State Certifications to please start the process two to three months prior to your ET cards expiring. Please renew them. It is your responsibility. Please be safe out there on the job, and stay hydrated. It is an honor to represent you all. As always, please contact me whenever you need any assistance with anything. Watch out for one another and, again, be safe.

COMPLIANCE REPORT
Veronica Martinez

I am happy to report that we closed December, 2022 with a three-figure worker wage restitution on a PLA project. This contractor has been cheating workers out of wages for over five years on various public works projects. Last spring this contractor was awarded PLA work at a local school. Our members who were dispatched to the project noticed that the contractor's core workers were being paid below the required prevailing wages and were directed to hide from auditors. Our members promptly reported these violations to our offices, and we subsequently filed grievances and performed audits. When contractors like this cheat on wages, they are also cheating IBEW contractors and members out of work. Remember, if you are dispatched to a PLA project, speak to the core workers, share information about the benefits of membership and report any violations to your agent.

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION
Chris Longoria

Greetings, brothers and sisters. I hope this report finds you well.

The demand for skilled and trained ITS Electrical Workers is in high demand. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has many high-dollar projects in progress as well as almost \$2-\$3 billion worth of future work scheduled for bid. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) also has a long list of infrastructure improvement projects scattered throughout the county. In addition, there are millions of contract dollars associated with the Project Labor Agreements (PLA) program; this agreement effectively supports our fight to ensure all electrical work is conducted by IBEW members.

For further information, please attend our monthly ITS meeting on the third Tuesday of every month at 5 p.m. Additionally, you can reach me directly at (626) 318-6333 or email me at clongoria@ibew11.org.

MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIAL
Kristian Mendoza

Hello, all. I hope all is well with you and your families. There are a few key events underway on the Industrial and Manufacturing side. First, I want to welcome Dominic Ellis as **Kinkisharyo Unit 1710** steward. At **Kinkisharyo Unit 1710** things are picking up. They have started the hiring process and will hold a job fair at the end of February.

At **Covanta Unit 15** things are also moving along. I have met with the negotiations committee twice, and we are looking forward to bargaining starting March 22.

I have also been meeting with our affiliates at the Supervisor Association Metropolitan Water District. We are nearing the end of negotiations and hope to have a contract for those members in the very near future.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any Manufacturing or Industrial questions or concerns at 661-965-0288 or at kristian@ibew11.org.

REFINERIES
Manny Solis

Hello everyone! Long-duration refinery work is coming in at many of our refineries, and we will need all hands on deck for the amount of work scheduled for the next month. Schultz Electric is looking to bring on more Journeymen, apprentices, and many level "B" instrumentation technicians at the Marathon Refineries. Contra Costa Electric has a very large contract at Phillips 66 Refinery, Wilmington which will require many more apprentices, JW's, and level "B" instrumentation technicians. Newtron Electric is getting ready to staff up again at the World Energy Refinery in Paramount. All refinery calls require the RSO20 certificate, and most refinery contractors also require the TWIC card. For members who have not yet worked in refineries, sign up for the Industrial Skills Orientation Course at the ETI Please get all your certifications!

DISTRICT 2
Oscar Martinez

Our focus over the last two months has been on a proposed 303,000-square-foot tilt up in Long Beach, which includes 9,000 square-feet of office space, and is currently pending City Council review. We regularly attend City Council meetings to monitor progress and will keep members posted on all developments. We also are continuing job walks in Long Beach, Torrance, and surrounding district areas. We attended Job Fairs in the South Bay region and spoke to high school students about the value of joining the IBEW. Part of our emphasis is that a four-year college may not be right for every student, and that the trades are a path to a career with good wages and a chance to build lifelong friendships on and off the job. We'll also be attending

Six Great Reasons to Join IBEW Local 11

- ✔ **Great wages & benefits**
- ✔ **Apprenticeships**
- ✔ **Ongoing training**
- ✔ **Jobsite representation**
- ✔ **Excellent safety record**
- ✔ **Discounts & Scholarships**

Learn more at IBEW11.org

an organizing conference to sharpen our membership development skills. There's always more to learn.

DISTRICT 4
Ruben Mendoza

As an Organizer for IBEW Local 11, I visit job sites in Los Angeles County, organize non-represented electricians, attend job fairs/expos at high schools, colleges or non-profit organizations, and speak about career opportunities as an electrician from wages, benefits and comradery.

Most recently, I spoke at the Salvation Army about our Build Work and Social Skills Program. I also spoke to high-school students throughout the district to promote the social and economic benefits different career paths in the trades offer.

I share the opportunities that IBEW membership provides and share my story about how IBEW membership has benefitted my family and me.

For people who have the skills and drive but haven't yet had the opportunity, joining the IBEW can be a life-changer for them and their family. We are all organizers, and it is our job to spread the word about our GREAT union to family, friends, and co-workers. Contact our Organizing Department. We'll take care of you like family!

DISTRICT 6
Tommy Zielomski

Hello brothers and sisters.

It is an honor and privilege to serve local IBEW 11 as an organizer. This is my 21st year as a member of IBEW 11. I graduated the inside wireman apprenticeship program in 2007, and April will mark my second anniversary as an organizer. As an organizer, my job duties

include organizing the work and the workers. One of the ways I try and organize the work is by sitting in on city council meetings, school board meetings and board of supervisors meetings across the District, and being as politically active as I can. I attend career fairs and reach out to high schools, colleges, and the Salvation Army (to name a few) to promote the value of IBEW membership. I regularly visit jobsites throughout District 6 to update IBEW 11 members and reach out to non-represented electricians to work to bring them into the IBEW 11 family. Please contact the organizing department if you come across any jobsites, and send us any electricians you meet so we can educate them on the benefits of union membership.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Benjamin Frank

We have been focusing efforts on building our contractor base for future and in-progress EVITP EV Charging, Solar, and Battery storage projects, along with SCE and DWP programs which are attached to grants and incentives that require projects be manned with Local 11 Apprentices and Journeyman Wireman. Our primary focus right now is on our residential market. We have met with the building trades, our compliance department, and our NECA partners to discuss our advancement in the residential market to accommodate Measure HHH and Measure ULA "House LA" funds already allocated to build housing for the homeless. These measures will allocate \$1 billion a year to build residential housing units under PLAs and Workforce Agreements, which will create new work for our members. We are developing new programs to increase membership and market share in our residential program and signing on new contractors to bid the work.

POLITICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Congratulations to Our New CADEM Delegates!

By Antonio Sanchez

I want to congratulate Shomari Davis, Luis Arida, Paco Arago, and Jackie Walton for being elected in the recent California Democratic Party Assembly District Election Meetings. Each will now represent their assembly district in the upcoming California Democratic Party conventions as a delegate. They will help shape the California Democratic Party platform and vote on legislation

to support and candidates to endorse.

Over the years, I've noticed that the issues IBEW and labor face are not always prioritized by some in the Party. So, we need to be present at the California Democratic Party conventions and voice our concerns. I'm confident that Shomari, Luis, Paco, and Jackie will help inform others at the conventions and advocate for our

issues. I will also be working to have more IBEW Local 11 members appointed as delegates so we are better represented within the California Democratic Party.

Statewide, there were approximately 80 building trades members, staff, and leadership that ran in the Assembly District Election Meetings. Almost 70 won. Winning these elections is now easy. Candidates must ask supporters to register to vote and then turn them out. We successfully worked with various labor friendly slates to help our members win. This new effort is championed by the new head of the California State Building Trades, Andrew Meredith. Brother Meredith replaced Robbie Hunter and is at IBEW Local 340.

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COMET

Continued from page 1

Training (COMET) courses for IBEW 11 fifth-year apprentices.

Each class is “roughly 30 to 35 apprentices” said IBEW 11 District 6 Organizer Tommy Zielomski, one of the COMET class instructors. “The purpose (of COMET) is to educate the membership on the importance of organizing.”

These lessons are already paying dividends for recent COMET apprentices.

“As a fifth-year apprentice going through COMET, it gives you an understanding of what your obligations are and your role as an inside wireman, as a JW, doing your part and maintaining our union growth,” says Cris Rodriguez, an IBEW 11 fifth-year apprentice. “It’s about having the right answers when other non-union electricians ask you what the benefits of being in a union are. It gives you an understanding of what non-union [electricians] think, and what their arguments or concerns are.”

COMET was introduced by IBEW’s national leadership in 1992 to combat a decades-long trend of declining union membership. “We used to have much more union density” until the 1970s, Zielomski said. “Then, for whatever reason, we got a little selective on the type of work that we were going after, or we stopped focusing on organizing and bringing people into the membership.”

But in recent years, with the help of programs like COMET, that trend has reversed and IBEW’s membership has been increasing. “(COMET) has really gotten us

to understand what works for us and what hasn’t worked for us – the mistakes we made in the past that may have bottlenecked our growth,” Rodriguez said.

Learning from the past is vital to building a better union future.

“To really get an understanding of who and what we did then and who and how we recruit today, I think it’s good knowledge to understand our growth and our approaches as far as organizing for IBEW,” Rodriguez added.

One common misperception Zielomski says the COMET classes correct is the belief among some apprentices that recruiting more members could somehow result in a drop in available work for them. Nothing could be further from the truth, says Zielomski. In reality, more union members brings more work because once non-unionized workers become unionized, it becomes more difficult for contractors to replace them with non-union workers.

“When you control union density you control the manpower,” said Zielomski.

Jordan Korth, a fifth-year apprentice with IBEW Local 11 who recently completed COMET, agreed. “More members means more union density, and that has a positive effect on bids and contract negotiations.”

At the core of COMET is the central conviction that every IBEW 11 member has a critical role to play in supporting the union and contributing to its future growth.

Local 11 is currently exploring expanding the COMET class to earlier-year apprentices.



Stressed out?

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IBEW Local 11’s FREE Mental Health Assistance Program is always one click or one phone call away (877) 225-2267.

Remember, brothers and sisters: when you’re an IBEW 11 member, you are never alone. You’re family.

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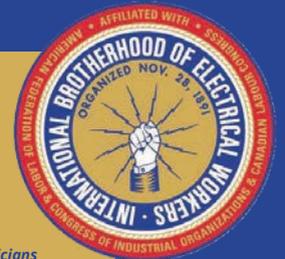


IBEW Local 11 Organizers Ruben Mendoza and Adalberto Gonzales presenting at a job fair at John Burroughs High School.

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