

# Local 11 Building LAX Transit Hub Fit for the World Stage



IBEW 11 Business Manager Joël Barton (orange vest) joined the Local 11 crew at LAX where union brothers and sisters are building a state-of-the-art transit hub that will transform how millions of passengers will get to and from the airport.

By Oren Peleg

**LAX** is one of the world's busiest airports, but its transit infrastructure is a holdover from a bygone era, much to the mounting frustration of the millions of passengers forced to cope with its ever-worsening traffic and congestion.

But now LAX's antiquated infrastructure is literally being transformed, and Local 11 brothers and sisters are on the ground laying the foundation for a bold, new

transportation future.

When completed, this state-of-the-art \$900-million transit hub, which began construction in early 2022, will provide a much-needed rail connection to LAX from local rail and bus lines.

This 9.5-acre complex will also sit next door to a brand-new Automated People Mover, which will connect passengers so they can transfer from public transportation directly to LAX's terminals, eliminating the need for any cars.

Standing at the northern edge of this new hub, where Metro buses will pick up and drop off passengers,

Local 11 foreman Aaron Cuellar pointed to a series of massive holes in the ground.

"These are two 5,000-amp switchboards that are only dedicated to the bus charging system," Cuellar said. Eventually, a solar array will be installed "for solar net metering so that [LAWA] gets a discount on the electricity they're generating."

### A Huge Point of Pride

The focal point of this hub is a 1,700-foot-long rail connection where L.A. Metro's K Line will house a station. A large mezzanine above  
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THE NEWSLETTER OF IBEW LOCAL 11

**NEWS @ 11**

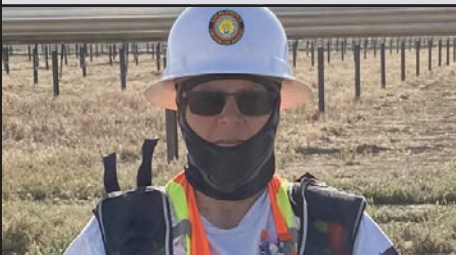
## Local 11 Compliance, Business Reps' One-Two Punch Lands Big for Members

By Jeremy Kehoe

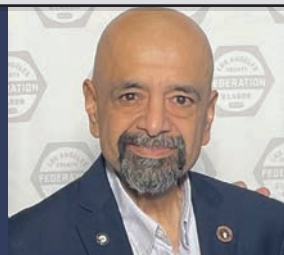
**IBEW** 11's Compliance division notched a set of impressive wins in recent arbitration and Department of Industrial Relations cases against a major Southern California

employer and a contractor that will result in more clearly defined work classifications for the electrical industry.

These victories were a culmination of union solidarity in the truest sense, with frontline business representatives and  
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Maria Cruz Ordaz Keeps Her Sleeves Rolled Up



Local 11 Remembers Brother Oscar Martinez



Local 11 Members Speak Out



# BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Joël Barton

## Remembering as We Move Forward

**A**s we near the end of May, we recognize one of our most revered holidays. Memorial Day reminds us to pause and remember those who have sacrificed so we can continue to enjoy the freedom and benefits of living in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

We begin all our meetings with the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our country. This Memorial Day holiday, please honor those who turned those words into action.

### **Congratulations, Graduates**

Earlier this month we celebrated the graduation of our apprentices as they begin their career in the electrical industry. This graduating class overcame many unforeseen obstacles – the worldwide pandemic, the temporary closing of the Electrical Training Institute, remote learning, and continual testing for Covid to ensure the protection of all those who occupied the facility.

Despite all these challenges,

this group persevered and earned the distinguished status of journeyman.

Congratulations to all the graduates and continued success throughout your working career and your eventual retirement with dignity and respect.

### **Negotiations**

Your Local Union is currently negotiating contracts for four classifications in Local 11. Residential, Construction Electrician, Intelligent Transportation Systems and Inside Wireman Collective Bargaining Agreements will expire in the next few months. The bargaining committees hope to soon have the CE/CW and Residential Agreements, and the Inside Wireman and ITS Agreements completed by the middle of June.

Please remember to cast your all-important vote when the time comes to ratify the Agreement. Your involvement in the Local Union activities will not only enhance your experience in the union but in your future as well.

### **S&C Allocation Vote**

Thank you to all those who voted in the recent Sound and Communications allocation vote. Participation was much higher than in the past. The decision to offer

online voting resulted in 53 percent of the membership casting their vote. Instead of 50 to 60 members voting at an in-person venue, 450 members voted to allocate \$1.55 of the negotiated increase to wages.

The Fringe Benefit Committee had recommended \$1 to wages and \$0.55 to the Active Medical Benefit to keep up with increased medical costs. Had their recommendation been approved by the membership, that allocation would have resulted in a Sound and Communications member only having to work 127 hours to qualify for one month's coverage of family medical. Since the membership voted for no increase in contributions, Sound and Communications members must now contribute 134 hours to gain coverage – almost one more workday.

The Health Plan Trustees are currently looking at ways to control future increases in the cost of the medical plan. We will bring you some options in the not-too-distant future to review and vote on.

### **The Future**

We are at a crucial turning point in the IBEW. Artificial intelligence and advances in prefabrication threaten many of the tasks we have done for over 100 years. Prefabrication has been allowed by our signatory contractors as long as they use IBEW members to

assemble and prebend conduit to be installed at the job site.

Unfortunately, we have recently learned that supply houses are taking over much of that work. If this continues, we will only become installers and not the craftsmen we strive to be.

For us to be effective in policing this work, we need your help. Please call your Business Agent about any pre-manufactured items which appear on your job. Be on the lookout for any pre-bent conduit with bar codes on it from a supply house. Catalog items do not apply, but pre-bent conduit is not one of them!

We are at the start of a second Industrial Revolution. The first favored business and produced the robber barons of the railroad and steel industries. We have a chance to make the Green Energy world conducive to the worker – a world where we are not thought of as merely part of the machinery.

Labor is playing a crucial part in requiring good pay and benefits, especially on Union jobs. That is why politics is so important, as is our relationships with other partner organizations who are involved in the Green Economy. Please stay involved.

*In unity,  
Joël Barton  
IBEW 11 Business Manager*

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# Maria Cruz Ordaz Keeps Her Sleeves Rolled Up

By Jeremy Kehoe

**A**s a child growing up in Jalisco, Mexico Maria Cruz Ordaz knew she wanted to be an electrician. Her reason was simple: her town had no electricity.

“There’s a big difference growing up with electricity and growing up without it,” Ordaz said. “When I came to United States the first thing I did was go to school and learn the language. And after I learned the language, the next thing I did was get a career, and that career was to become an electrician. That’s what I wanted, and that’s what I did. It’s been amazing. I love my job.”

Now, Ordaz, a 20-year Local 11 member, is an IBEW steward working on-site for CSI Electric at a major solar project in Lancaster. Here, she supervises construction of a cutting-edge, green-energy hub that will deliver a new source of energy to the next generation.

Even though she is now a steward who oversees a crew of 12-15 Local 11 brothers and sisters on her current job site, Ordaz still works alongside each of them in the field – pulling feeders, installing combiner boxes and converters, and connecting panels.

“As a steward I don’t have to work, but one of my conditions to being a steward is that I have to be

working with my crew – working together as a team,” Ordaz said. “I enjoy every single thing we do. If I’m not working the days feel long to me. I really enjoy my job, and it just feels really good to be working. I love it.”

Ordaz says her top priority as steward is ensuring her crew is protected and respected.

“I represent the union, and that means looking out for my brothers and sisters and making sure their rights are protected,” Ordaz said.

Local 11 District 5 Business Representative Mitch Klein said Ordaz’s reputation and commitment to her union brothers and sisters is well earned.

“I helped Maria join Local 11 and she has excelled ever since,” Klein said. “Maria is an excellent worker, has a great attitude and good work ethic, and is very well respected in the industry. She is a perfect example of what an IBEW electrician should be.”

## Opening Doors for Women

For many years in her Local 11 career Ordaz would be the only woman on a job site, but she said she never felt intimidated or isolated – a fact she attributed in part to having nine brothers.

“Some guys would tell me, ‘You’re in the wrong place’, but I always had a positive attitude, and I know how to talk to the guys and don’t offend

them and don’t let them offend me,” Ordaz said.

Ordaz is especially heartened by Local 11 Business Manager Joël Barton’s commitment to increase the number of women members to 10 percent by 2024. Local 11’s current construction female membership is around 3 percent and 4.5 percent among apprentices. Education, Ordaz said, is the key.

“I knew that I wanted to be an electrician since I was 14, so I used to go to work and go to school to become not just an electrician but to get educated in not just doing the job but also get educated in theory and knowledge,” Ordaz said. “I made sure that I got that education. Being educated is the best thing you can be because it creates opportunities.”

## Paying It Forward

Although Ordaz has no plans to leave the field and sit behind a desk anytime soon, when she does think about her Local 11 future, her focus is on dedicating her time to reach back and pull up young women searching for a career path.

“In the future I’d like to be an organizer to organize more female high school students and show them how they can join the union, because the union offers so many opportunities,” Ordaz said. “I’d go to the high schools and let them know they can graduate and go



straight into the union and become electricians, carpenters, plumbers, iron workers – whatever they want – and be free from student loans.”

Even as an organizer, though, Ordaz would never sever her in-the-field ties.

“I’d still be going out to the job sites and working with my crews, especially the younger apprentices I’m working with right now,” Ordaz said. “I really want to keep adding to Local 11 and keep going and seeing my brothers and sisters and make sure that we get better in everything every day.”

# Local 11 Needs You to Keep Helping Families in Need



Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the apprentices who unselfishly volunteered to help sort food for Labor Community Services, a division of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor. A warehouse full of food

was collected by the Letter Carriers from their annual food drive, and help is needed to inspect and stock it. Almost 60 brothers and sisters representing IBEW Local 11 hit a homerun by helping needy families in the

greater Los Angeles area. If any member needs help with food, utilities, or other expenses, contact your Business Agent or Community Services at [marcos@lcs-la.org](mailto:marcos@lcs-la.org). – JOËL BARTON, IBEW 11 Business Manager

# We Mourn the Loss of Local 11 Brother Oscar Martinez

*\*Editor's Note: IBEW 11 mourns the loss of our brother, Oscar Martinez. In celebration of his life and legacy, we are revisiting News@11's recent interview with Oscar, whose selflessness and solidarity with his union brothers and sisters was seemingly endless.*

December 2, 2022

By Evan Henderson

Wherever he goes, whatever he does, Oscar Martinez carries his personal and business cell phone and is always armed with plenty of business cards. This is true both on and off the job, when he is out to dinner or even undergoing medical procedures.

"I don't stop," says Martinez who left the field to join the Local 11 Organizing Department in the winter of 2018. "I keep on going. I've been that way since day one. I've always pushed myself to help give someone the opportunity to have a better life."

By all accounts, he's quite good at his mission. During his tenure as a union organizer, Martinez estimates that he has brought between 200 and 250 new brothers and sisters into the union. In 2019, he was honored with the Above and Beyond Award by the IBEW International, but because of the COVID pandemic, he had to wait for the union's membership development conference this summer to receive the certificate recognizing the achievement.

Not that the Carson native has any time to sit around waiting for accolades. He's too busy reaching out to potential new union members. Also in 2019, he joined Local 11 Apprenticeship Coordinator – and former mentor – Alton Wilkerson as a Los Angeles County representative on the Organizers Without Borders initiative. The two men traveled to Orange County to recruit new members from a Bergelectric job site. The organizing effort was touch-and-go, but ultimately successful, according to Martinez.

"I was literally hiding in corners from the foreman," Martinez says with a laugh. "We took guys from every floor. I would poke my head out and when I saw the foreman, I would dash back inside and find another guy to start talking to, and give him a flyer."

"We're not salesmen," he continues. "We preach the gospel of the union. There are Berg foremen who are making \$43 per hour. We say, 'Come across with us and you'll be making \$57 an hour.' We let them know how it is."

The ongoing Bergelectric campaign has resulted in 450 new Local 11 members to date, according to Martinez.

Martinez will celebrate his 25th year as an IBEW member in June 2023. Before coming to Local 11, he spent 11 years in the trade on the non-union side. Married and with young children, he was looking for better benefits and protection for his family. He went into the Union

Hall and was organized in by Larry Henderson. Martinez completed the five-year apprenticeship program in record time.

"I got a meritorious upgrade and perfect attendance the entire four and a half years," says Martinez. "I got a certificate for that, too. And it was the best decision I ever made for my family."

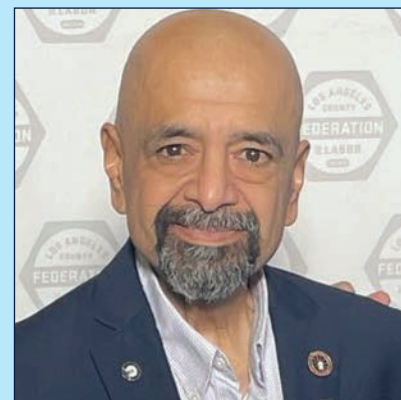
Although he enjoyed his time in the field as an inside wireman, Martinez was quickly recognized for different talents.

"In 2015, I was a foreman on a job and Robert Corona was my general foreman," he recalled. "In December of 2018 or 2019, he hit me up and said, 'Hey, Oscar I want to see if you want to come into organizing.' I said, 'It would be an honor to help you out.'"

Martinez quickly took to the job, learning when to employ the gift of gab for recruiting purposes and when to listen while the members and potential members are asking questions or voicing their concerns. Martinez credits the many mentors who helped pave the way for his success.

Even after having brought in hundreds of members during his tenure as an organizer, he takes little credit for the achievement. At the local's annual picnic, Martinez recalls being approached by a member who claimed to be among the first apprentices Martinez ever organized.

"He said, 'I just want to let you know that you changed my family's life. I have a daughter who was sick



and now I have insurance," recalls Martinez. "I said, 'Wait a second brother. I didn't do that. You did that. All I did was open the door and you did the rest.'"

"We don't do it for numbers," he continues. "We do it to give guys careers. Even today when I see Larry, I tell him 'thank you'. When my kids are with me, they tell him thank you too. It's such a fulfilling feeling to be able to give someone a career path."

Martinez and his wife of 30 years, Cristina, have a son and daughter. Martinez has battled cancer for the past three years and he says the work he does for Local 11 helps keep his mind focused on his mission.

"I was going with my dad to treatment and there was a break between treatment, so we went to get a cup of coffee," says Martinez. "There were a couple of electricians in the coffee shop. I brought one of them in and now he's in our apprenticeship program."

"It keeps me going," he says. "It keeps me from thinking about what I don't want to think about."

## Honoring a Union Brother in the House of Labor

Union brother Larry Barragan is a man of many titles. By day, he works in the oil refineries as a member of USW 675. In his time off, he leads his union brothers and sisters as Chairman of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Labor Coalition, heads up the annual Labor Day Parade in Wilmington, and is an executive board member of South County Labor.

In recognition of his 30-plus years of union leadership and stewardship, Larry received the Dan Foley Outstanding Labor Leader award this month from the South County Labor at Local 11's ETI before a crowd of 250 supporters. Elected officials

from around the Southland honored Larry with certificates and accolades for his years of dedication to making our communities stronger. Presiding over the ceremony were Larry's fellow South County Labor Executive Board members as well as Joel Barton, IBEW 11's Business Manager, and Louie Diaz, Vice President of Teamsters 848.

Larry is a true union brother. During the pandemic, the Labor Day parade pivoted to become the Labor of Love Food Distribution that supplied boxes of food to thousands of local South Bay families. As an activist and executive board member of South County Labor, our hats are off to you, brother Barragan. Union Strong!



Larry Barragan (right) awarded at his Dan Foley Outstanding Leader ceremony.

## COMPLIANCE

Continued from page 1

organizers in each district listening to members' on-the-job concerns and then taking them to Compliance for action.

"Compliance and Local 11's business representatives and organizers are very much married to each other because we share information, and they give me the information I need to perform the compliance actions and proceed with enforcement actions," said Local 11's Director of Compliance Veronica Martinez, a nine-year IBEW 11 member.

As Director of Compliance Martinez oversees activity of all the Locals' units regarding PLA compliance, general prevailing wage laws, competitive bidding issues, Department of Industrial Relations, and Department of Labor disputes, and she also serves as chair of the LACCD's Bond Oversight Committee.

### Willful Non-Compliance

The first Local 11 Compliance victory was on a multi-million-dollar railroad installation project at the Port of Long Beach. Here, the railroad signal contractor promised it would exclusively assign all the signal removal and installation work scope to labor but instead willfully chose to violate the law by misclassifying workers and then paying them lower wages – a prevailing wage violation.

Christopher Longoria, business agent of Local 11's Intelligent Transportation unit, brought the issue to Martinez after reviewing the scope of work and talking to members at the job site.

"We reached out to that contractor and said, 'Hey, it's our understanding that the wrong craft is doing is performing this scope of work. We need to fix it.'

That was kind of how everything started," Longoria said. "It was a dispute between our signatory contractor who's a C-10 license holder, which is an electrical contractor on paper, using laborers to do electrical work."

Business reps like Longoria play a pivotal role as an on-site workforce agreement enforcer, a trusted confidant union brothers and sisters can turn to when they see rules violations and agreement infractions, and, finally, a liaison to Compliance if a contractor refuses to comply.

"Our job is to make sure members feel comfortable making that first phone call or email or text to talk things through and then have conversations to figure out how we can put any fires out at an early stage, and if we can't then talk about what the strategy is moving forward," Longoria said. "There are rules in the rulebook, but if a contractor pushes back on those and refuses to comply then that's when I'm going to fall back on Compliance."

Compliance then took that job site information provided by Longoria and began engaging with the awarding body to seek guidance from the DIR on work scope coverage. The DIR ultimately ruled in favor of Local 11 – determining that a large scope of the work being performed indeed belonged to the Inside Wiremen or Intelligent Transportation Systems classification.

"The contractor was willfully going to pay less than the prevailing wage and misclassify the workers," Martinez said. "And that word – 'willful' – is important because that is the determining factor as to the damages that are owed. The contractor outrightly was not willing to comply, and even after they were informed of their

non-compliance they willfully chose to violate the law."

"We prevailed and are now proceeding with prevailing wage enforcements with this contractor," Martinez added. "It's not only about getting a bad actor but leveling the playing field so that contractor won't go to the next project and try to underbid a project."

In fact, this same contractor is now scheduled to supervise similar railroad signal installation and removal at the Port of Los Angeles, where Local 11 members and business representatives will be keeping close tabs.

"We already told him, 'We're going to watch you. On every single project we'll follow you wherever you go,'" Martinez said. "It's a game of patience where we follow, we document, and we record over and over and over and show the different awarding bodies that he has previously violated prevailing wage laws and to not award work to them in the future."

"It was important we dug our heels in on this one because it was an opportunity to set a precedent for work going forward," Longoria said. "It's important for our contractors to succeed, but they have to do it in the right way."

### Taking on a Refinery

Local 11's Compliance unit also recently pursued – and prevailed in – its arbitration case against a refinery for their contracting of a non-union, electrical contractor to perform high-voltage electrical testing work, and for not complying to the terms of the PLA.

The arbitrator ruled that this refinery was found to not comply or follow the processes in the PLA for the award of this work, and that "the Union has met their burden to show that the work in dispute is "Covered Work" as defined in

Article 2, SCOPE, or the PLA."

Local 11 District 2 Business Representative Manny Solis, whose district includes the facility, regularly met with the job steward on-site, secured first-hand accounts from individual Local 11 members there about the violations, and then delivered these issues to Martinez for action.

"Through our members and myself and conversations with Veronica we were able to bring these violations to the forefront and even track all the work that was being done by this non-compliant contractor," Solis said.

As a part of the arbitration decision the refinery has been ordered to pay damages to IBEW 11 for the loss of work.

"The Union is entitled to the health and welfare benefit payments that should have been made to the Union Trust for health and pension benefits that would have been made under the IW agreement," Arbitrator David A. Weinberg wrote in his ruling.

Details of the settlement are still being finalized – Martinez again stressed the need for patience – but the arbitrator's ruling was unambiguous.

Solis said the bedrock union values of solidarity, unity, and fraternity at every level were key to exposing these violations and securing a favorable ruling.

"I've been working in the refineries for the past 30-plus years and also taught at the ETI for five years, so I've built relationships with many of our members working there," Solis said. "They know they can trust my word, and we can confide in each other. We were all on the same wavelength on this because we're all brothers and sisters, and that's how this brotherhood and sisterhood works – we take care of each other."

## APPRENTICESHIP CORNER

# Apprentices Making History on Job Sites Across L.A. County

By Alton Wilkerson

Apprentice Coordinator

I've had the pleasure of visiting several Local 11 job sites this month. It was great to see a lot of our

apprentices working on historical landmark projects throughout the Los Angeles County. Projects like the Intuit Dome, home of the Los Angeles Clippers; the People Mover project at LAX; Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, and others.

These are the types of projects that will still be here when their grandchildren are able to utilize and enjoy them. It is a proud feeling to see the hard work and integrity our apprentices are putting into these projects.

If you have any projects you would like me to visit, please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Keep up the great craftsmanship.

Continued from page 1

the platform will feature ticketing kiosks and a retail hub. Above this mezzanine is the APM platform.

It's a massive project – one that will be seen by the world – which is an enormous point of pride for Local 11.

“The big push is for the World Cup coming two years before the Olympics,” Cuellar said. “We want it to look as good as the renders so people are impressed by it, because this is the next biggest thing [for L.A. Metro] since Union Station.”

L.A. Metro's Eric Hildreth said the goal is to start running trains past the station as early as September, and he has been impressed by Local 11's professionalism and commitment.

“They've got a can-do attitude out here, which is really important,” Hildreth said. “It's helping to push the job.”

Sticking to that schedule is a challenge, Foreman and Local 11 member Justin Rodrigues acknowledged. “One of the main challenges, as it is in all other projects, is just coordinating with the other trades – sticking to an accelerated schedule.”

Rodrigues added that working on this site has had its unique rewards.

“The crew we have here gets along very well,” Rodrigues said. “We're always in constant communication. Whatever they need, they don't have that fear that they can't talk to the foreman,



or that they can't talk to the general foreman. So, it's a real sense of brotherhood and sisterhood.”

This Local 11 union sentiment of solidarity and fraternity echoes across the job site.

“Everyday, working with different journeymen, they all teach me a little something, little tricks to do the job faster, something different that I'm applying,” Local 11 second-year Antonio Santiago said.

For Inside Wireman Rudy Ramirez, “it's the brotherhood I enjoy the most.”

“You spend a lot of time around the guys and girls, and being around them, building something, the satisfaction of completing something – it's something you can really take pride in,” Ramirez said.

“All our jobs are a point of pride, but this is a high profile one,” Local 11 District 3 Business Agent Mike Costigan said. “Any time you talk about the MTA, that's high profile. You talk to any of our members, and you can see it in their eyes.”

“Not only this project, but the whole LAX upgrade has provided years' worth of work for our members,” said IBEW 11 Business Manager Joël Barton. “LAX is an international airport, and travelers from around the world will see the transformation of LAX into a world-class transportation hub. Having used the airport, I can already see the changes in the flow of traffic, ease of check-in, and retrieving your luggage. Maybe it's not quite there yet, but it is a lot better than it used to be.”



# Members Speak Out

“Our apprentices get to do everything, and if they haven't, we're rotating them through. We want them to generalize in all their skills, so we try to push them around and let them know that if you get caught up with something and feel like you know it enough, let's move you to something else.”



– STEWARD GREENWOOD  
Foreman

“I'm a pretty quick learner and these guys, they're professionals. The guys that I've worked under, they're teaching me good stuff, good information.”



– ANTONIO SANTIAGO  
Second-Year Apprentice

“LAWA is going to be going all electric buses, so I learned something about how they're charging them at this site: it's going to be coming from an overhead. When the bus comes up, they're going to line up and it's going to drop down 480-volt DC that charges the buses, and then from there they'll circle inside the [station's] horseshoe, and then bring people out.”



– MIKE COSTIGAN  
District 3 Business Agent

“One of the bigger challenges is fixing things that are broken. Other trades might dig up something we've already buried. But what I'm most proud of? I love cad welding and making this project safe so people who use it won't get shocked.”



– JOHNNY WITSKY  
Journeyman

**DISTRICT 1 (NORTH)**  
**Brett Moss**

Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings from District 1 North. I hope this report finds you and your families well. Work in the area is progressing slowly. It's still a mix of LAUSD, LACCD, Prop HHH, and CREED work. Projects along Sunset Blvd. are somewhat stalled except for the large residential project at the corner of Sunset Blvd. and Western Ave. SBE has this project and is expected to start mobilizing. After demo and digging is complete, they are going down two levels. Conti is still moving rapidly on the Wilshire Blvd. project and has called a few from the hall. GEC2 has started work on Purple Line 1 and hired a few JWs and apprentices. DCE, a PLA contractor, is working two projects and has hired from the hall. Stay safe and be well. Always feel free to reach out via email, phone or text.

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

The Intuit Dome (home to the L.A. Clippers) will be calling out to members to install LED panels in June. I spoke with Summit Swing, and they will need manpower for the LED oculus installation.

The Jefferson High School project, a five-year, \$163-million, multi-phase project awarded to ILB Electric and First Fire Systems, will require manpower soon. Two towers in the Downtown L.A. Arts District have been approved and will break ground shortly and need manpower. Look for more details here.

At the IBEW Government Affairs and National Building Trades conference in Washington D.C. last month we learned that President Biden's infrastructure bills will be creating a lot electrical work for Local 11 members. It is an amazing time to be an IBEW 11 worker. The future of renewable energy and a green economy is all ours, sisters and brothers.

It is an honor to serve you. The future is filled with opportunity.



Organizers Lali Castillo and Paco Arago presenting at an LAUSD Spring into Employment Job Fair by HACLA Watts, Los Angeles Worksource Center & Maxine Waters Employment Prep Center.

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

May is here, and job calls in District 3 have been slow. But better days are on the horizon. Jobs I have been monitoring include the LAX Runway Relocation project and the LAX Fuel Relocation project. These two projects will be performed by Aldridge and Royal, respectively, and I anticipate calls in the hall for both. Another job I'm keeping an eye on is the Santa Monica High School expansion. Cupertino is there, and they should be calling for manpower soon. On another note, I hope you are one of the many members who sent in a recommendation for our contract negotiations. Our union is only as strong as our members, and participation is critical. In the spring and summer there will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer and participate in one of Local 11's many activities. Be active. Stay active.

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

Howdy, Brothers and Sisters.

As we move into summer, calls in District 5 have improved. CSI Electric has been hiring for the 225 MW Solar, Battery and Sub-Station project. We continue work at Antelope Valley Hospital with several contractors, and Reyes and Sons have started work on the new Cedar Hall job at Antelope Valley College. Soon, we will be working on a new convention center, hydrogen plant, medical village and defense work. Please sign up for District 5 Journeyman classes, and stay on top of your State Licensing. Hot off the press is the new Community Workforce Agreement at the Antelope Valley Union High School District, which will cover all high schools in the Antelope Valley. Many thanks to our officers and members for their hard work, participation, and time to make Local 11 and our District 5 GREAT!

**EAA REPORT**  
**Marlene Fonseca**

EAA members submitted over 280 proposals for the 2023 contract negotiations. Unit Councils are doing a phenomenal job of vetting and making initial determinations on each proposal's viability. Our timeline remains intact, and we expect to be in full-blown negotiations by mid-July.

**City Vacancy Rates**

The City of Los Angeles currently faces record-high vacancy rates. Some departments are seeing vacancies as high as 43 percent. EAA believes this trend underscores the need for employers to shift their mindset to focus more on what the incoming workforce is seeking. For classifications that EAA represents, these priorities include improvements to work-life balance and enhanced benefit packages. Both are being offered in many private sector and tech companies that hire comparable EAA classifications. We continue to work with the City through

labor/management groups and negotiations to resolve this. The City can't operate without us!

**Other Recent Events:**

EAA endorsed Marisa Alcaraz for the special election in L.A. Council District 6!

EAA offered and provided Military Appreciation Night Dodger tickets to thank our members who have served our country.

EAA's annual scholarship filing period closes at the end May. Winners will be selected over the next month for up to \$4,000 each in college scholarships.

**SOUND & COMMUNICATIONS**  
**Christine Austria-Lozoya**

Attention all Sound & Communications members: we are exploring the possibility of holding our Unit 9 meetings at both the Commerce and Pasadena locations to accommodate members closest to those areas. These meetings will be held on the second Saturday of every month at 9 a.m. Reminder e-mails will be sent out.

The Sound Welfare Committee is inviting members who want to take part and be active to sit on the committee. Meetings are held every last Tuesday of every month at 5 p.m., 297 N. Marengo Ave. Pasadena.

The work picture is starting to look up for us, slowly but surely. Apprentice callouts are on the rise. Journeyman, please be sure to continue to keep your certifications current and obtain those you do not have. This will help guarantee you to take a job call.

**UNIT 14 CIVIL SERVICE**  
**Luis Arida**

Following are current contract negotiation updates:

**City:**

Contract talks will resume, after the City initially declared it would not negotiate until later in the year. City Coalition was instrumental in getting these talks back on track.

**LAUSD:**

After an extremely long delay, we are back at the table with the LAUSD and anticipate a new contract soon that will be worthy of ratification. Stay tuned!

IBEW welcomes Jason Peterson from LA City, who has come on staff to assist with our organizing efforts. He can be reached at [jpeterson@ibew11.org](mailto:jpeterson@ibew11.org). For further information, please attend our monthly Unit 14 meeting on the fourth Thursday of every month at 5 p.m. Also, please feel free to contact me at (626) 712-4769, or email me directly at [arida@ibew11.org](mailto:arida@ibew11.org).



**DISTRICT 1**  
**Paco Arago**

We continue to organize experienced electricians into our Local and aggressively compete for current and future work. Organizers, for example, recently participated in several meetings with the L.A. City Council regarding the Bulgari resort project in Benedict Canyon. This project has committed to being a Union project. There has been resistance at the hearings, mainly by residents who do not want construction or traffic in their area. The project was almost rejected by a motion put forward by Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky. Local 11 organizers and others testified at the LA City Hall meeting, though, and the vote was 7-7 which allowed the project to move forward. Please contact your District Organizer if you would like to participate in fighting for the growth of our Great Union.

**DISTRICT 3**  
**Carlos Rodarte**

Greetings sisters and brothers of the great Local 11. As your District 3 organizer I continue to visit multiple job sites, including

residential, commercial, fast food and retail stores. As a result, I was able to organize nonunion electricians, inform them about the IBEW, and was able to organize some into membership this month. I attended a Hire LAX MC3 graduation at Southwest College where we had five graduates who were very interested in joining the Local. These graduates previously applied for the wireman apprenticeship program and are currently working as a CW-A with different signatory contractors. I also attended various city council meetings this month to address certain projects and attended multiple career fairs.

**DISTRICT 5**  
**Beto Gonzales**

Greetings to all.

Eleven years ago I was given the opportunity to join the IBEW and go through the apprenticeship program. I had been an unrepresented electrician for seven years working for low wages and no benefits while having to be responsible for multiple crews and job sites. I talked to a union brother, and he gave me information on union wages and benefits and educated me about the apprenticeship program. He then gave me the number of an organizer. I consider myself and

my family blessed to be part of the IBEW. It changed our lives. Now, as an organizer I have the opportunity to help others and educate them about Local 11's great wages, benefits, and apprenticeships. I tell them my story to encourage them to do better not only for themselves but for their families.

**SOUND & COMMUNICATION**  
**Citlali "Lali" Castillo**

Brothers & Sisters,

We are approaching the middle of 2023 and with that comes a crucial part of organizing, a new allocation for the Sound & Communication Unit. Per our new contract, we will now receive a raise every six months – which previously was every year. We mailed and emailed out notifications of voting via Election Buddy and saw that 53 percent of the unit participated – exactly what we need. A friendly reminder: please keep your contact information updated with Local 11 so you can stay informed. What we vote on the check is very important, but equally important are our health benefits, the HRA card, and our annuity. Our allocations and contracts are so important to organizing because we all want to speak proudly of the great benefits our union has to offer. Let's continue to help each other grow our membership. Stay Safe!

**POLITICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Skilled and Trained Protections Critical to Keeping New Construction Union**

By Antonio Sanchez

The California Democratic Party will be convening its midyear convention in Los Angeles May 26 – May 28. Titled “Don’t Agonize, Organize!”, the convention will feature thousands of delegates who will vote on leadership roles and resolutions.

Local 11 will be represented by our Business Manager Joël Barton, Assistant Business Manager Robert Corona, Shomari Davis, Jackie Waltman, Luis Arida, Paco Arago, Tommy Zielomski, and me.

The State Building Trades will be presenting a resolution to support our efforts to bring the proven success of ‘Skilled and Trained’ labor protections to the residential construction industry to secure strong middle-class jobs and address the critical housing shortage in California.

Local 11 (and others) are supporting this resolution because we have a housing affordability crisis across California. As we build new housing to help alleviate the problem, that new housing must be built union! Including our Skilled and Trained language will achieve just that.

**Endorsement Alert!**

IBEW Local 11 has endorsed Marisa Alcaraz for Los Angeles City Council District 6 (CD6). Marisa is a proven labor ally who will side with labor as we build more housing, transition to clean energy, and tackle the homelessness crisis. The runoff election will take place June 27. CD6 lies in the heart of the San Fernando Valley and includes Arleta, Sun Valley, Lake Balboa, Van Nuys, North Hills, and Panorama City.

Please vote for Marisa Alcaraz on June 27.



The EWMC chapter of Local 11 donated conduit benders to WINTER (Women In Non-Traditional Employment Roles) and presented them to the head instructor Chris Vargas. WINTER is a non-profit work development program whose mission is to “Train, educate, and prepare women for transformative careers in the construction industry.” They utilize the MC3 program to introduce women to all trades.



IBEW 11 Business Manager Joel Barton and Local 11 Political Director Antonio Sanchez met with State Building and Construction Trades Council of California President Andrew J. Meredith at the California Labor Federation and State Building and Construction Trades Council in Sacramento to discuss support for legislation that will ensure fair wages, decent working conditions, and basic respect on the job for union brothers and sisters.