



Local 11 Puts Its Thumbprint on Downtown L.A.'s Skyline



Construction on the 8th & Figueroa tower began in 2020 and is set to open later this year with over 430 new units.

By Oren Peleg

On every floor of the new 42-story, 530-foot residential tower at 8th and Figueroa streets in downtown Los Angeles that Local 11 brothers and sisters are helping transform from architectural vision into concrete reality, there is a constant refrain: camaraderie. Every conversation without hesitation steers back to it.

"It's a brotherhood," said Ezequiel Martinez, Local 11 job site foreman. "One of the reasons this job is going so smoothly is because

we help each other out."

"I've gotten to meet a lot of people," said Local 11 third-year apprentice Nate Shibata. "Since I'm kind of new still, the biggest challenge is not knowing what I don't know. So, I always try to ask questions. If something doesn't make quite sense to me, I'll ask the question at least, and someone can explain it to me well."

Developed by Mitsui Fudosan America, with LendLease as the general contractor, construction on the 8th & Figueroa residential tower began in 2020 and is set to open later this year with over 430

new units, multiple sky decks, a clubhouse, and more.

Building Legacy on Every Level

For Local 11 general foreman Juan Fang the training and camaraderie are about legacy.

"It feels nice to see the city growing and be a part of it as a member of the union," Fang said. "And one of the main things that we look for in the IBEW is training our replacements, because those are the members who'll carry us into the future. They carry over our legacy."

Fang, who started his career as a
(Continued on page 5)

Training Director Nott Breathing New Life into ETI

By Jeremy Kehoe

Since taking over as Local 11 ETI Training Director last January, David Nott has remained laser focused on advancing one fundamental premise: the nation's largest training program must be a world-class operation that equips every student with the highest skills and education they need to succeed on the job.

Nott's first step in transforming

his mission into reality was a literal one – an old-school, pen-and-paper canvas of the ETI campus.

During his first week Nott and his staff walked the Commerce campus, notebooks in hand, and wrote down pages of notes identifying every issue that needed to be addressed and then developed a timeline and action plan to resolve each one.

The top priority for every action
(Continued on page 8)



Training Director David Nott addresses the newest class of ETI graduates



IBEW 11, EWMC March With Pride



Listen Up! Members Speak Out



ETI's Newest Graduates Celebrate

NEWS @ 11

JUNE 2023

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THE NEWSLETTER OF IBEW LOCAL 11



BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Joël Barton

June: A Time to Celebrate, Remember, and Negotiate

In June we have no holidays per our agreements, but there are several which deserve special recognition. The month of June is celebrated as LGBTQ+ Pride Month. We should respect and honor all people and protect everyone's right to live as they choose. Especially in the IBEW, we should embrace all those who want to be members of this great organization.

On June 11 IBEW Local 11 was proud to have members march in the 53rd Annual LA Pride Parade in Hollywood. Our own staffer, Diana Limon, was interviewed on Channel 7 and represented us well, as she always does. The week before, a contingent of Local 11 members went to Sacramento for the Union Women: Stronger Together conference hosted by the California State Building and Construction Trades Council and the California Labor Federation. Again, our delegates represented us well, and the largest group there were IBEW members.

The common theme I came away with was how everyone there was accepted. All were welcomed, as it should be, and is my pledge as the leader of IBEW Local 11.

Another special day was June 19, where we celebrated Juneteenth. This commemorates the day more than two months after the end of the Civil War, and more than two years after Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, when enslaved Black Americans in Galveston, Texas were informed of their freedom. Of course, we cannot forget the inequities and atrocities which ensued thereafter and continue to this day. However, it is our task to correct those transgressions and move forward. Again, let's embrace everyone as brothers and sisters and create a Union and world which tolerates all and which loves and respects one another.

Welcome New Staff

I would like to welcome Jason Peterson to the Local 11 team. Jason will assist our Civil Service Agent, Luis Arida, in increasing the membership of our Governmental workers so all can be represented by our Union.

Also, new to the staff is Crystal Herrera. As Director of Member and Community Development, Crystal will be reaching out to members to be more engaged in their Local Union and their community. I look forward to working with them both.

A heartfelt thank you to our apprentices who have been volunteering every Thursday to sort food at the United Way food bank. A massive number of nonperishables were collected by the Letter Carriers to feed the hungry. It is a monumental task to separate all the donated items, but IBEW Local 11 members, as always, stepped up to the plate to help. If you would like to volunteer, they will be sorting food until the end of July from 8 am to 4 pm at Warehouse 1D, Salvation Army Bell Complex, 5600 K St. Bell, California 90210.

Negotiations Update

The Local Union is still in negotiations with our NECA contractors to secure an agreement for our Inside Wireman and Intelligent Transportation Systems electricians. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 23 at the

IBEW offices in Pasadena. We hope to come to an agreement by then so there is a Special Called Meeting on Saturday, June 24 at the Pasadena Convention Center.

If we have any proposals to present, they will be uploaded to allow you to review and vote. All voting will be online and will start at 12 pm on June 24 and close on Monday June 26 at 5 pm. If we have no proposals to present, the vote will be for authorization to call for a strike against the employers.

Please make sure the Local Union has your current email address so you can vote on this important aspect of your career. Contact the Dues Department at 626-243-9721, or email dues@ibew11.org. Further information and instructions will be provided so you may review and vote on your contract.

In closing, I would like to wish you and your family a happy Independence Holiday. It is an honor and privilege to serve you as your Business Manager/Financial Secretary.

*In unity,
Joël Barton
IBEW 11 Business Manager*

IBEW 11's NEWS@11

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Rusty Roten

Vice President
Eric Brown

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Produced by Senders Communications Group

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Make Sure You Have Your Summer Reserves

Brothers and Sisters, As we shift into summertime, our thoughts should be on doing what's best for our families.

Now that the kids are out of school, summer vacations are being scheduled. Please remember that we need to be prudent with how we spend our money and make sure that we have sufficient reserves

(savings) to cover unforeseen circumstances. It's very common to go out and spend ourselves into debt and then find we don't have anything left to cover rent, gas, and other regular expenses.

Our union vacation fund was designed to help with this situation in mind. It used to pay out to our members on June 1st and December 1st. That way, a source of money was available for summer vacation

and for Christmas time. The vacation fund has adopted some broader-use parameters, but its root design is still in place.

Overall, have a safe and fun vacation time, and keep those expenses within reason. Everyone enjoy!

*In Solidarity,
Gaylord "Rusty" Roten
President IBEW Local #11*



MEMBER PROFILE

Journeyman Gilbert Ortiz Ready for Next Union Journey

By Robert Fulton

Gilbert Ortiz is ready to start his next union journey.

A 30-year IBEW Local 11 member and a proud journeyman electrician, Ortiz has worked across Los Angeles County, including roles as foreman and general foreman at multiple job sites.

More recently Ortiz has jumped into other realms of the union universe. He teaches classes at IBEW 11's Electrical Training Institute, training the next generation of union electricians. He sits as Chairman of Local 11 District 6, presiding over the group's monthly meetings. And, he volunteers with the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, providing a guiding hand to young brothers and sisters interested in or just now finding their way in the trade.

Ortiz, 48, exudes confidence as he pursues his next chapter and appreciation for the ones that have preceded it in his 30-year union career. Ortiz said he loves what he does and uses the word "obligation" to describe why he is pushing forward into this next stage.

Ortiz is a second-generation Local 11 electrician. His father retired from the trade, and numerous family members are Local 11 members. Though raised in a union household, his father preferred he attend college. It wasn't until a high-school career fair that Ortiz considered being an electrician. The elder Ortiz's only stipulation was that even though they lived in San Bernardino

County, Gilbert had to join the Los Angeles-based Local 11.

Ortiz signed up for training at age 18.

Ortiz recognizes the special opportunities that mastering a trade and belonging to a union offer, and he would like to see a greater emphasis placed on promoting these benefits when recruiting new members so you can, "Show them at a young age that the union is the way to go."

Ortiz has worked on projects including building the Jurassic World ride at Universal Studios. He says, though, that it is not always the biggest jobs that are the most memorable but the ones with the best crews.

"I've always been driven by just building electrical systems while working in the brotherhood-type of environment," Ortiz said. "Just that atmosphere. I love working in a crew with high morale in a brotherhood and sisterhood atmosphere."

Ortiz felt comfortable on job sites early on, talking and guiding and leading, and eventually earning foreman and general foreman responsibilities. But he wasn't always as at ease with public speaking. That, too, has changed. Ortiz has conquered that challenge and has taught at the ETI for the past three years, where he now trains fourth- and fifth-year apprentices.

Ortiz's volunteer work with the EWMC has also pushed him to stretch himself and take on new roles. At the EWMC Ortiz now tutors and introduces members to the benefits of union membership every Saturday.

Following his chairmanship for

District 6, Ortiz is seeking new and different ways to serve the union, including possibly participating in contract negotiations.

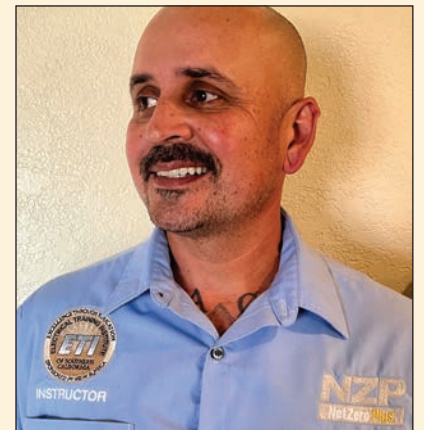
Jacob Troncoza, Local 11 District 6 Business Representative, has known Ortiz for nearly 10 years.

"He's one of the hardest-working members I've worked with," Troncoza said. "He gets it done. He knows what he's doing. He honors his work. He values his work, and he's a proud IBEW member."

Troncoza sees a bright future for Ortiz and calls him an "exemplary person."

"He bleeds IBEW, and I can't think of anybody who's more the type of guy who just raises his hand to get the job done, whatever it takes," Troncoza said.

A married father of four daughters, Ortiz credits the union for providing him with a comfortable lifestyle and the ability to take care of his family. He jokes that his daughters are



union members by default, and he loves spending time with his family, hunting, and fishing, and he's working on remodeling their Ranch Cucamonga home.

No matter what his future holds, whether on the job site, at the ETI, with the EWMC, or negotiating contracts, Ortiz will forever be a journeyman.

"That's what I always will be," Ortiz said. "No one could ever take that away from me."

CELEBRATING LOCAL 11'S
81st Anniversary
AT THE
ANNUAL UNION PICNIC AND HEALTH FAIR
August 5th, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Food Served 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Hollywood Sports Park
9030 Somerset Blvd., Bellflower, CA 90706
ENTERTAINMENT:
DISC JOCKEY • RAFFLES
BINGO • HORSESHOES
BOUNCE HOUSES
CIGAR LOUNGE • ADULT GAMES
CHILDREN GAMES & PRIZES
PAINTBALL is an optional event being offered to our Members at a reduced price, for those who would like to participate • All Gear Provided
REGISTRATION FOR TICKETS WILL BE ONLINE ONLY • PLEASE VISIT: www.ibew11.org

Get ready for a day of fun and sun and solidarity at Local 11's Annual Union Picnic and Health Fair August 5 at Hollywood Sports Park from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Get details on the fun and games, and register for tickets at www.ibew11.org. Let's celebrate Local 11's 81st anniversary together!

Local 11 Unites with EWMC to Celebrate L.A. Pride

By Jeremy Kehoe

IBEW 11 staff united with Electrical Workers Minority Caucus members, families, and friends to march in celebration at the 53rd Annual LA Pride Parade – one of the nation’s oldest and biggest LGBTQ+ Pride celebrations – on Sunday, June 11.

Dozens of Local 11 brothers, sisters, siblings and EWMC members clad in matching pink IBEW 11 shirts and carrying a banner of support and fraternity, joined thousands of celebrants along Hollywood Boulevard – the first time Local 11 has officially participated in the celebration since 2017.

“It’s important for everyone to remember that everyone in the IBEW is welcome, and that’s what

makes our union so great – our diversity,” said IBEW 11 Director of Women Recruitment & Support Diana Limon. “Our Local has members that identify within the LGBTQ+ community, and we also have members who have family and friends that identify, so it’s important to be out there to show support.”

The banner and shirts were created for IBEW Local 11 by the EWMC.

Chrisanthi Dafopoulos, a CW who joined Local 11 just over a year ago and will be starting Bootcamp as a new apprentice next month, was heartened by the experience of walking side by side with her new union brothers and sisters celebrating equality.

“You grow a whole family when you join a union, and you get blessed with many brothers and sisters,” Dafopoulos said. “To be



able to be out there to show people how amazing our family is and to show other women it’s OK to join the union and be gay and know that everyone’s accepting and nobody’s judgmental shows how amazing our Local is. To see how everyone came together and supported each other was incredible.”

Limon, who was appointed to the National Executive Board of Pride at Work in 2015 to represent the IBEW, said it was not lost on Local 11 and EWMC members that this year’s Pride Parade comes at a time when LGBTQ+ rights, protections, and freedoms have increasingly come under attack from a host of local, state, and federal politicians and private organizations.

“There have been more anti-LGBTQ+ laws passed or trying to be passed that we have ever seen in a long time, so I think it’s great that the IBEW is out there standing up for everybody’s rights and diversity,” Limon said.

For IBEW Local 11 Business Manager Joël Barton, who has

made increasing diversity and strengthening women’s leadership positions in the union a top priority, Local 11’s return to the LA Pride Parade was another welcoming sign of progress.

“We should respect and honor all people and protect everyone’s right to live as they choose,” said Barton. “Especially in the IBEW, we should embrace all those who want to be members of this great organization.”

As if the celebration needed a crowning moment, it came when the IBEW and EWMC crew completed their march right in front of the garage where they had parked before shuttling to the Parade starting line that morning by staff members Ruben Mendoza and Francisco Arago.

“We had a great time, and it was a great turnout,” Limon said. “The energy was something else. It was really exciting for us.”

Dafopoulos agreed. “It was one of the coolest things I’ve ever participated in,” she said. “I can’t wait to do it again next year.”



Stop SB 284! Call your Assembly Member today!

SB 284 is anti-union, and it would cause more than 40,000 IBEW members at the State’s electric and gas utilities to lose their jobs. This union-busting bill is an assault on collective bargaining. It violates IBEW Collective Bargaining Agreements, and it would invalidate IBEW’s 50-year-old CBAs.

Can IBEW count on you to oppose SB-284?

The bill might be heard as soon as next week. Let’s show California our IBEW strength. **MAKE THOSE CALLS NOW!**

Below is a script you can use when you call your Assembly Member.

In Solidarity,
Joël Barton / IBEW 11 Business Manager

SCRIPT TO OPPOSE SB 284

My name is <> I’m a proud member of IBEW Local 11, and I’m calling to urge Assembly Member <> to vote No on Senate Bill 284.

SB 284 would force contracting out of all utility work and cause more than 40,000 IBEW members at the State’s electric and gas utilities to lose their jobs.

It illegally invalidates the IBEW’s collective bargaining agreements and is anti-union.

Please vote NO.

[Be prepared to give your address or email if asked].


IBEW CALIFORNIA

ACTION ALERT

STOP SB 284

It Attacks Collective Bargaining Agreements and Raids IBEW Work!

CALL THE LEGISLATURE TODAY

SAY YOUR NAME, THAT YOU’RE AN IBEW MEMBER AND THAT YOU OPPOSE SB 284.

-  Assemblymember Ash Kalra: (916) 319-2025
-  Assemblymember Heath Flora: (916) 319-2009
-  Assemblymember Phillip Chen: (916) 319-2059
-  Assemblymember Matt Haney: (916) 319-2017
-  Assemblymember Liz Ortega: (916) 319-2020
-  Assemblymember Eloise Reyes: (916) 319-2050
-  Assemblymember Chris Ward: (916) 319-2078


LOG YOUR ACTION:
<https://bit.ly/STOPsb284>

8TH & FIGUEROA

Continued from page 1

non-union electrician making \$13 an hour, said joining Local 11 transformed his life.

“The training I’ve learned here, the people that I work with, the whole brotherhood, it’s just amazing,” Fang said.

For area superintendent Lee Gutierrez, legacy is a family affair.

“I’m a third-generation electrician,” Gutierrez said. “My grandfather, Leandro, was the first electrician. He got into IBEW in the 1970s. Then my father, Ron Gutierrez, got in in the early 1980s. I got in in 1994, and then I also have a brother who got in in 1999, and my cousin Chris Longoria (Business Agent for IBEW Local 11’s Intelligent Transportation Unit) got in as well.”

Does Longoria want the next generation – the fourth in the family – to join IBEW?

“Absolutely,” Longoria said, citing the better pay and benefits union membership provides. “I would put opportunity at the top of that list, too. There are just so many pathways in Local 11, beyond working with the tools. There are different ways that you can help your family and also help the union as a whole.”

Beyond the standard amenities of a pool deck, barbeques, and fire pits, the 8th and Figueroa tower has more unique features like a golf simulator and hot yoga room – technologies that require new skills. These new technologies, though, create new opportunities for every Local 11 member to learn and test new skills they can transfer on to the next job.

“Amenities always have something new,” Gutierrez said. “We do design-builds, so there might be changes on the fly, and that’s definitely a hurdle.”

As a project, the 8th & Figueroa residential tower is a fairly standard job for the crew. Still, as is the

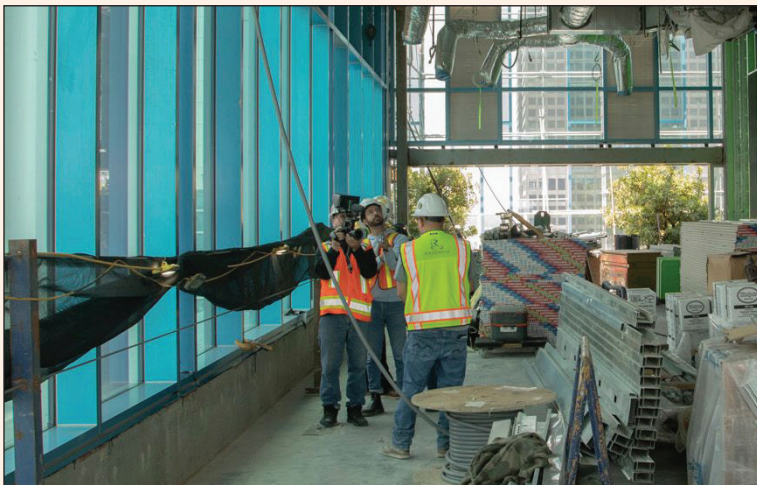


case on every job site, this project has yielded its fair share of new and unexpected challenges.

Facing these challenges and coming together to create solutions to overcome them is part of what makes the fraternity of union membership so special.

“Every person who wants to come in and become an IBEW member, you become one of us. We teach you,” said Fang. “That’s something we all embrace: teaching people, spending the time, and getting the talent to move forward and get the job done.”

Camaraderie – there’s that Local 11 refrain again.



Members Speak Out

“The jobs go easier if everyone understands what we’re doing, how we’re doing it, and the reasons why. There’s a code to it. Someone at some point helped me out, so I feel that I should help the first years, second years, third years, or even fourth years if they haven’t done the work we’re doing right now. I’ll always take a little bit of extra time and walk them through it.”



– PEDRO ALDAMA
Fifth-Year Apprentice

“The advice I’d give first-year apprentices is to just put in the work. Sometimes, some things may be a little bit confusing, but don’t hesitate to ask other people questions because we’re more than welcoming to help you guys out.”



– MICHAEL CHAVEZ
Fourth-Year Apprentice

“Every person who wants to come in and become an IBEW 11 member, you become one of us. We teach you. That’s something we all embrace: teaching people, spending the time, and getting the talent to move forward and get the job done.”



– JUAN FANG
Local 11 Foreman

“Since I’m still kind of new, the biggest challenge is not knowing what I don’t know. So, I always try to ask questions. If something doesn’t quite make sense to me, I’ll ask the question at least, and someone will explain it to me well.”



– NATE SHIBATA
Local 11 Third-Year Apprentice

“There are just so many pathways in Local 11, beyond working with the tools. There are different ways that you can help your family and also help the union as a whole.”



– CHRIS LONGORIA
Local 11 Intelligent Transportation Unit
Business Agent

DISTRICT 2
Gary Tomlin

Here is the current work outlook in the District 2 Area:

- Aldridge at Pier 4000
- CSI: San Pedro marketplace renovation
- CSI: CSULB LAI and physics lab
- Siege: Pier 400 on Navy Way.
- Gregg Electric: Boeing enclave new tilt ups by Long Beach Airport.
- Neubauer Elect: Cerritos Community College Health/Science building
- LEED Electric: Port of Long Beach D48-50 transit shed renovation
- Polaris at Bellflower Court House

Upcoming projects:

- Harbor UCLA. Five-year plus project Rosendin/Meadows JV. Currently just the new parking structure is being built.
- Gregg Electric: New tilt ups at corner of 190th Street and Western Avenue. They are still rough grading the site.
- CSI at LA Harbor College. New two-story nursing building.
- Long Beach City College buiding MM (Phase II)
- Taft Electric: Port of LA promenade Phase II

PLA for City of Long Beach:

- \$100-Million Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center
- Remember to get out and vote on your contract. Let your voice be heard!

DISTRICT 4
Marc Greenfield

Greetings from the beautiful Valleys of San Fernando and Santa Clarita. Work is slowly picking up, with LACCD and LAUSD projects starting in a few weeks. One project I have been looking forward to starting is the 80 MW battery storage facility in Santa Clarita. This project will employ as many as 60 journeymen, wireman and apprentices. Preliminary work was slated to begin in June, with major construction commencing in August.

Congratulations to the District 4 “We Shock the Competition” BBQ Team for finishing fourth in the 4th Annual LU 569 BBQ Competition and taking third place for their brisket out of the 19

teams competing. Joel Greenfield and Brett Moss were the pros, while Michelle Moss and I helped where needed. I hope everyone has a good, safe summer and gets to enjoy time with their families.

DISTRICT 6
Jacob Troncoza

Hello to all Brothers and Sisters!

I hope and pray all is well with you and your loved ones. Thank you all for your support and encouragement. It helps me do the best job I can in this honored position.

We are job walking and attending pre-jobs in the San Gabriel Valley. Mt. San Antonio Collect (Mt. Sac.) is renovating buildings. Hacienda La Puente School District work is still in process. The City of Hope project is going strong, and Queen of the Valley has much to do. There is work in El Monte, SVG Aquatic Center, and courthouse work in Alhambra, Norwalk and Montebello.

Stay up on your certifications. Contact me, and visit our unit meetings for more intel. God willing, we are hoping for a respectable contract to hold our heads high in this negotiation. Be informed. Do not forget to vote. God bless the IBEW, and may we stay activated.

CW/CE
Jackie Waltman

Brothers and Sisters,

Hello from your apprentice and CW/CE representative. I wanted to let all CW’s and CE’s know that we have an online course on the ETI website that you can access. All CW’s: it is your responsibility to renew your ET cards two to three months before they expire. Please do so! CE’s: please sign up for classes at the ETI that you need to complete before turning out. Classes include motor control, transformer, advanced pipe bending, LAQSP, and prep code.

It is an honor to represent you all. As always, contact me whenever you need any assistance with anything. Watch out for one another, and please stay safe.

COMPLIANCE
Veronica Martinez

The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) administers and enforces laws governing wages, hours and breaks, overtime,

retaliation, workplace safety and health, apprenticeship training programs and other benefits for injured workers. Our industry and union heavily rely on the DIR for tasks such as publishing our wages, processing trainees, electrical certification exams, and enforcement actions.

Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to sit with DIR leadership and discuss department efficiencies, and have come to learn that one of their biggest obstacles is manpower. Currently the DIR has a 40-percent staffing deficit. While we understand the state’s hiring process can be long and arduous, my ask of you is that if you know of any individuals seeking work who have a background in inspection, OSHA, administrative support, IT or human resources, please visit the DIR website at www.dir.ca.gov When they are fully staffed, we become more successful.

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION
Chris Longoria

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers.

Electrical construction on streets, highways, railways and runways has afforded us the opportunity to support ourselves and our families. The time and dedication given to becoming a skilled and trained electrical worker has placed us in a position to further benefit our way of life. Now, more than ever, that position is being attacked.

Many other crafts in the construction industry, such as the laborers and carpenters, do not hesitate to perform our work. Every IBEW member has a responsibility to protect the “electrical” scope of work identified in our agreement. If you see this happening on your project, please reach out to me ASAP at (626) 318-6333 or email me at: clongoria@ibew11.org

On another note, a bylaws proposal was approved during the June general meeting: The “Intelligent Transportation Systems” classification is now Unit 11.66. For more information, please attend the next ITS meeting at the District 6 hall on Tuesday, August 15 at 5 p.m.

REFINERIES
Manny Solis

Work in our refineries remains steady. Schultz Mechanical will hire approximately 8 - 10 J.W.’s along with about four apprentices every three or four weeks for the AMP project. This is a very large project that Schultz Mechanical will continue to call out for throughout the entire year. Schultz Mechanical has the contract to modernize both the Marathon Carson refinery and the Marathon Wilmington refinery. Schultz requires the RSO20, the TWIC, a hair follicle test, and a background check for a call to these Marathon refineries.

Newtron Electric is preparing for the World Energy refinery five-year project in Paramount as well as additional J.W.’s and apprentices for the World Energy refinery this summer. Contra Costa Electric will also hire for the Phillips 66 refinery in Wilmington. Please get your RSO 20 and TWIC card for the refineries.

Plan to Attend the Inside Wiremen Special Called Meeting

DATE: Saturday, June 24, 2023
TIME: 9:00 AM
LOCATION: PASADENA CONVENTION CENTER
300 East Green Street, Pasadena, CA 91101



The meeting agenda will focus on the status of negotiations and a strike authorization vote amidst negotiations with LA County NECA.

Voting will be done online via Election Buddy. You will receive an email with voting

instructions on June 24 to begin the voting window at 12 PM ending June 26 at 5 PM.

All members must present a current dues receipt. Should you need to update your email, please contact the Dues Department at 626-243-9721 or email dues@ibew11.org.

DISTRICT 3
Carlos Rodarte

Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to take this moment to take a trip down memory lane and share one of the many encounters Oscar Martinez and I came across while visiting job sites.

We walked onto a large apartment project complex in Downtown Long Beach. The superintendent immediately spotted us. "Can I help you with something?" he asked. Oscar said, "We are here to speak with the electricians." The superintendent asked who we were, and Oscar stated we were the IBEW. The superintendent said, "You're not talking to any of my guys. As a matter of fact, you need to leave my project now." Oscar replied, "We're not going anywhere. We have every right to be on this project per NLRA section 7." The superintendent said, "What is that?" Oscar let him have it! He said, "It guarantees employees the right to self-organization to form, join or assist labor organization. We are not here to stop production. We are allowed to talk to them during their breaks or lunch. Here is the letter from our attorney." The superintendent was so angry he said he would be back. It was late in the afternoon and everybody was leaving. Oscar and I decided to return at 5 a.m. to catch them right before they entered the job site. Tri-City Electric spoke to about 10 or 12 electricians. Thank you, Brother for teaching me!

DISTRICT 4
Ruben Mendoza

Sisters and Brothers,

As the summer months approach, be mindful of your sisters and brothers in the field. Hydrate. Heat stroke is real.

I attended the first-ever LAUSD 100% electrical school bus yard in the county with LA city councilmembers and LAUSD Superintendent Alberto Carvalho.

I also attended various city council meetings throughout LA County, speaking at the Santa Clarita City Council meeting regarding a large project in the Valley with Creed LA; and an LA City Council meeting in support of the Bulgari Resort LA project, which will provide union jobs. I also traveled to Sacramento to lobby state senators about renewable clean-energy projects in LA County.

I am honored and humbled to be able to represent our membership throughout our great county and view the big picture of our industry for Local 11. These experiences make me a better organizer.

DISTRICT 6
Tommy Zielomski

Greetings all.

I continue to visit job sites in District 6 and throughout the county, speaking with unrepresented workers as well as some of their employers about the many benefits the IBEW provides. I attended the energy worker day in Sacramento, which included lobbying at the Capitol with other members of the Building Trades to discuss legislative bills that will affect our members should they become law.

I was appointed as a delegate to Assembly District 53, which includes the city of Pomona where I live, and attended the California Democratic Convention over the Memorial Day weekend. I had the opportunity to meet my Senator, Susan Rubio. She asked for my Local 11 lapel pin, which I gave her, and she immediately put the pin on her jacket.

As always, it is very important to build and maintain relationships with those who have the ability to provide more work for the IBEW.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Mario Barragan & Ben Frank

We recently hosted another successful contractor's class at our Pasadena office, providing our members with an invaluable opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge

from industry suppliers, business owners, NECA and IBEW representatives and various industry agencies. These comprehensive classes combined with our top-down efforts have resulted in the signing of new signatory contractors. Upon becoming signatory, we educate our newly organized contractors about seminars and workshops specifically tailored for public works projects, LACCD, LAUSD as well as projects with entities such as DWP, SCE, and water districts. We dedicate our time and resources to helping our newly signed contractors grow their businesses, which in turn leads to increased employment opportunities for IBEW members. We stay updated daily on the work picture and different niches within our jurisdiction. By doing so we ensure that our signatory contractors are aware of projects they might not have otherwise known about or considered bidding on. We find it beneficial to be actively involved in efforts that generate more opportunities for our members to secure employment.

MANUFACTURING & INDUSTRIAL
Kristian Mendoza

I want to start by welcoming Iron Rootz to the IBEW Local 11 family. Iron Rootz is a silk screen and print shop located in Palmdale.

Kinkisharyo is moving along with its Metro refurbishing contract with the P2550 trains, and we are working hard to find more contracts for them. With Covanta, we are wrapping things with bargaining and hope to have a new CBA by early July.

I want to welcome Matt Irvine as a new steward. Matt has been helping with negotiations as well as keeping members informed at the plant. Our affiliates at the Supervisor Association Metropolitan Water District have agreed to a contract and are having a ratification vote beginning July 6.

Thank you for allowing me to serve this great Local. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about manufacturing or industrial.

IBEW 11 Endorses Marisa Alcaraz for City Council Seat #6

Local 11 is endorsing long-time friend of labor Marisa Alcaraz in the June 27 special election to fill the city's vacant 6th District seat. We have worked with Marisa on many projects, and she has proven herself again and again to be a strong advocate for LA's working families. She comes from a union family and has worked on such policies as \$15 minimum wage, promoted

building hundreds of affordable housing units to cut down on homelessness, helped secure tens of millions of dollars to upgrade our local parks, and improved basic city services like tree trimming and sidewalk repair. Marisa will be able to hit the ground running on Day 1. If you live in her district, please vote for Marisa Alcaraz on June 27 for City Council.





Local 11 Celebrates Its Latest Class of ETI Graduates

A new class of 340 Local 11 brothers and sisters joined the exclusive ranks of graduates from IBEW 11's Electrical Training Institute last month, earning their official title as Journeymen.

Members were honored at a ceremony where ETI Training Director David Nott, along with Los Angeles City Councilman Tim McOsker (CD-15) helped the new graduates celebrate their career-changing achievement.

Local 11's ETI program – one of the largest training programs of its kind in the nation – is dedicated to equipping members with the skills they need to adapt to the constantly evolving challenges they will face on the job and providing them with access to the tools they need to solve them.

"These apprentices have worked very hard over the last few years,

dedicating hundreds of hours and making many personal sacrifices to get to this point," said IBEW 11 Apprentice Coordinator Alton Wilkerson. "In the end, they persevered and acquired a valuable skill set that will enable them to take care of themselves and their families for the rest of their lives."

ETI staff, equipped with iPads for the first time, were on hand to greet and check in the more than 500 graduates and guests and seamlessly guide them to their seats.

"The apprentices and families and staff and everyone who attended was professional and kind and good spirited," Nott said. "It was really one of the best graduations I'd ever been to."

Nott, who has attended 17 ETI graduation ceremonies during his union career and is an apprentice program graduate himself – this

was his first graduation ceremony presiding as ETI Training Director – said his staff's dedication and planning ensured a successful event.

"I give a lot of the credit to my staff being so organized and prepared," Nott said. "Everything went so smoothly because for the first time we put together a graduation committee, and we talked about and planned for everything back in December. It made all the difference for these graduates."

Three Outstanding Apprentices

At the top of this year's ETI graduating class were three Outstanding Apprentices – standouts who achieved the highest GPA in their respective divisions and consistently demonstrated an exceptional level of talent, commitment, and hard work.

The three Outstanding Apprentices from this ETI

class were Mona Abassi (Inside Wireman), Gabriel Salazar (Sound & Communication), and Armando Medina (Intelligent Transportation System).

Local 11 also distributed Meritorious Achievement Awards to graduates who maintained a GPA of over 95 percent throughout their apprenticeship and demonstrated their unwavering dedication to their craft.

Additional Perfect Attendance commendations were also awarded to ETI graduates in recognition of their special level of commitment and professionalism.

"These graduates are at the beginning of their journey," Nott said. "It's important for them to remember they're on a constant journey to master their craft and to continue learning and to keep taking classes to better their skills. That's what being a journey person is all about."

Local 11 Members Step Up to Feed The Hungry

A heartfelt thank you to our apprentices who have been volunteering every Thursday to sort food at the United Way food bank. A massive number of nonperishables were collected by the Letter Carriers to feed the hungry. It is a monumental task to separate all the donated items, but IBEW Local 11 members, as always, stepped up to the plate to help. If you would like to volunteer, they will be sorting food until the end of July from 8 am to 4 pm at Warehouse 1D, Salvation Army Bell Complex, 5600 K St. Bell, California 90210.



DAVID NOTT

Continued from page 1

item was making sure every change delivers the maximum benefit to the 2,200 students and journeypersons who take classes at ETI.

The first update that needed to be made was plain to see: a lack of parking spaces for members coming in for training.

“We have 500 to 600 people down at the ETI every day, but we only have about 400 parking spaces, so I started thinking, ‘What does that do to the attitude of people showing up here when they come and they can’t find a spot and they have to park on the street somewhere,’” Nott said.

That seemingly simple act of making sure Local 11 brothers and sisters have a place to park set Nott in motion to strategically reshuffle the entire training and classroom schedule.

He moved fourth-year apprentices from night school to day school to free up classrooms and parking spots during the day to relieve pressure on the night classes and allowed ETI to add new journey-level classes during the evenings. Nott also shifted CW classes to Sundays to alleviate the Saturday traffic.

“That’s really been one of the biggest shifts here – moving the fourth-years and CW’s around,” Nott said. “That’s allowed us to utilize our space more and offer more opportunities for journeymen and Saturday labs.”

Building a Better Learning Experience

Other action items topping Nott’s list include reducing instructor-to-apprentice classroom ratios and overall class sizes, bringing in subject-matter experts, adding tutoring classes, hiring staff to better respond to member inquiries, and reorganizing training classes to better accommodate students’ schedules.

Nott met with ETI instructors and established minimum and maximum limits on class size at 10 and 20, respectively, for apprentices and journeymen to ensure every member gets the attention they need to take full advantage of every training session.

“It started with COVID where we had instructors who couldn’t come in, so we were combining classes where one instructor was handling 35 to 40 students – not a great learning experience for the students, very stressful for the instructor, and the quality goes down,” Nott said. “So, I’ve changed that and put that cap on there. I feel our instructors are happy with that, and I feel like the students are getting a better learning experience because that experience is a little more individualized than it used to be.”

Embracing a Shift in Attitude

Nott understands that creating not just the biggest but the best ETI in the nation transcends the logistical.

Creating a world-class ETI

requires top-down commitment from all 120 ETI staff to embrace a culture of change at every level – from providing clean and safe classrooms, to bolstering the quality of the instructors, to installing a new phone system to accelerate response times to members’ phone and email inquiries (which average about 9,000 every month).

“Our new mantra here became, ‘Everything we do is going to be world class,’” Nott said.

That facility-wide vow to heighten the member experience from the moment they enter the parking lot through the time they exit the classroom has already paid off for instructors and students.

“We use what we call dark week – anytime there’s a holiday during the week when we don’t have day school – to provide training to our instructors to make them better experts on the materials they teach and how to manage classrooms better directly translates into a better educational experience for every apprentice,” Nott said.

That enhanced instructor training – and ETI instructors’ willingness to embrace it – has helped create a new climate that has reinvigorated students, Nott said.

“If students feel like they’re getting value out of sitting in the class, so they feel like, ‘I want to go to class’ instead of, ‘I gotta go to class’ – that’s the value I’m starting to see,” Nott said. “Our students are starting to get more invested

in their training because they’re starting to see the facility raising the bar. I’ve seen a major shift in the attitudes of the students.”

Members Taking Notice

Nott’s commitment and dedication has impressed Local 11 brothers and sisters. In a recent News@11 column, Cristopher Rodriguez, Apprentice Council President and 5th Year I/W Apprentice wrote about walking into Nott’s office downtrodden, certain the status quo would never change, and emerged reinvigorated convinced a new era at ETI was dawning.

Nott recalls that conversation with Rodriguez vividly.

“We met for about an hour and a half, and he had some assumptions about what was happening here, and once we talked them through I think he turned around on a few of those,” Nott said. “We walked through the facility together, and I showed him what we’re doing to improve the classrooms and what our plans were overall. I think that was breath of fresh air to him to get an inside look at what we’re doing and planning.”

Nott gives two words to describe his first six months at the ETI helm: busy and challenging.

“You always have something that crops up that needs your attention,” Nott said. “But it makes it rewarding when you solve problems. So, as challenging and busy as it’s been, it’s also been rewarding.”

SAFETY CORNER

Don’t Gamble When the Stakes are Your Life

When I see someone driving while looking down at their cell phone, I wonder if they would place a large bet of let’s say \$1,000 or more on the blackjack or roulette table. I would assume not. But everyday people jump behind the wheel of their vehicle and drive distracted.

Every year more than 3,000 people lose their lives to distracted driving – 400 of those caused by drivers using their cell phones. In fact, 25 percent of all distracted accidents are related to cell phone usage.

Studies have shown that reading or sending a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. To put things in perspective, let’s

convert five seconds into distance at various miles per hour.

The typical neighborhood streets are posted at 30 mph. If you were to read or send a text at 30 mph, you would have traveled 220 feet. At 65 mph that five seconds equals 475 feet – more than one and a half football fields. And, at 75 mph, the typical speed drivers travel in the carpool lane, those five seconds reach a whopping 550 feet.

A lot can happen in that short time and long distance, including encountering another distracted driver.

One recent study found that cell phone usage while driving is six times more dangerous than drunk driving. One recently released poll

revealed that 77 percent of adults and 55 percent of teens think they can manage texting and driving at the same time. The data clearly state otherwise.

Tips to avoid distracted driving

Focus on driving. Do not let anything divert your attention. Don’t text while driving. Even hands-free devices have an inherent danger. Try to eat or have a snack before you hit the road. But, if you chose to eat and drive, avoid messy foods.

Finish dressing and personal grooming at home before leaving home. Store loose articles in the back seat or out of reach so not to be tempted to reach for them.



Bottom line: focus on driving when behind the wheel, and don’t drive distracted. The stakes are too high.

*In solidarity and safety,
Mike Costigan
IBEW Local 11 Safety officer*