

# IW & ITS Ratify New NECA Agreement



Local 11 brothers and sisters took our fight for fair pay for hard work to the street outside the ETI.

## Contract Immediately Hikes Wages and Boosts Long-Term Bargaining Power

By Jeremy Kehoe

**IBEW** 11's Inside Wiremen and Intelligent Transportation members ratified a new contract with NECA last week that immediately hikes their wages – putting more money in their pockets right now – shortens the contract window for future negotiations – empowering members to negotiate even bigger gains faster – increases their equipment stipend, and also adjusts certain shift start times, which will push more members into a higher-paying

hourly category right away.

After months of tense negotiations, 60 percent of IW & ITS sisters and brothers, who represent 8,000 of IBEW 11's 12,000 membership, voted to ratify the new agreement on July 17, with 4,354 members voting in favor.

Among the hard-fought gains in the new agreement are a three-year raise that was more than a dollar per hour higher than NECA was offering and more than keeps pace with the decreasing rate of inflation (which has declined every month for the last 12 months and now sits at its lowest level since March 2021).

Other key concessions Local 11 secured from NECA were to cut the contract window for future negotiations from seven to three years, which will increase members' future bargaining leverage; increasing the boot stipend from \$125 to \$175; and moving the graveyard shift start time from 8:01 p.m. to 8 p.m., which will move members up into a higher hourly pay-rate compensation category.

“This new agreement resulted in some significant gains for our members -- from gains in wages to gains in strengthening our ability  
*(Continued on page 3)*



JULY 2023

WWW.IBEW11.ORG

THE NEWSLETTER OF IBEW LOCAL 11

# NEWS @ 11

## Doing Good in the Neighborhood

IBEW 11 and EWMC Partner with Habitat for Humanity to Give an Altadena Family a Fresh Start

**IBEW** 11 and Electrical Workers Minority Caucus brothers and sisters partnered with Habitat for Humanity in July to install the electrical systems in a home being built from the ground up for a husband and wife and their three

children who have been on a waiting list for housing for three years.

The family has been living in a 500-square-foot studio that is smaller than the garage of their new Altadena home.

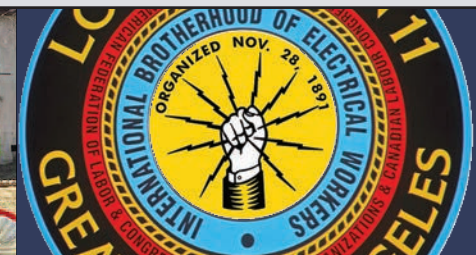
For Journeyman Inside Wireman and seven-year Local 11 member  
*(Continued on page 4)*



Sign Up for August 1 Blood Drive



Veterans Committee Keeps Reaching Out



Bootcamps and Calls For Apprentices



# BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Joël Barton

## The Hot Days of Summer

I am sure everyone is yearning for the May gray and June gloom to return to the skies of Southern California.

However, we know here in Los Angeles that July and August bring the heat. Please remember to take all heat safety precautions as you go about your daily jobs. Take time to cool off, and drink plenty of fluids to make sure you don't succumb to heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

I am happy to report, after two months of grueling negotiations, the Inside Wireman, Intelligent Transportation Systems Journeyman and Apprentices have ratified a new 3-year contract. Out of 7,050 eligible Inside Wireman, 4,205 voted with 2,367 in favor to approve and 1,838 to reject the

Agreement. In the Intelligent Transportation Systems unit, 491 members were eligible to vote. 187 voted with 145 voting to approve and 42 to reject their Agreement.

Both new contracts call for a \$1.80 increase starting on the July 31, 2023 pay period, with \$2 increases every 6 months. This agreement could not have been reached without the outstanding participation of the membership of Local 11. From phone calls to demonstrations to "practice" picketing, they moved the employer's negotiating team closer to a fair contract.

It is you the members who got it across the finish line. You should be proud of what we accomplished together. I am especially proud and impressed with the young workers who dedicated their time after work, calling IBEW members to stand in solidarity to secure a good contract.

IBEW Local 11 is indeed in good hands with these future leaders.

I would be remiss not to mention the tireless dedication of the Local 11 staff. Your team was out late at night and early mornings making sure all protocols were followed and everything was in order.

Now it is time to work together with our NECA partners to secure and gain more work opportunities for IBEW members. We have much to do. With all of us working together, IBEW will continue to lead the way.

### Summer Picnic, Summer Fun

In this newsletter and on our website, [www.IBEW11.org](http://www.IBEW11.org), you will find the flyer for the Local Union Annual Picnic. All members and their families are invited for a day of family fun, solidarity, delicious food, and great raffle prizes at the Hollywood Sports Park on August 5

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admittance is free to members, but you must RSVP via our website. We need to know how many will be attending so we can make sure we have enough food and refreshments.

Also, the first Monday of September is Labor Day. Join us in Wilmington to march with your fellow IBEW Local 11 members for the largest parade west of the Mississippi.

Assembly begins at 8 a.m. with the March down Avalon Blvd. starting at 10 a.m. A rally will follow at Banning Park at 12 p.m. where there will be speakers, music, food, and drinks. See you there.

*In unity,  
Joël Barton  
IBEW 11 Business Manager*

It is you the members who got it across the finish line. You should be proud of what we accomplished together. I am especially proud and impressed with the young workers who dedicated their time after work, calling IBEW members to stand in solidarity to secure a good contract.



## IBEW 11's NEWS@11

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Keep an Eye on Your Health Benefits

**B**rother and Sisters,  
Now that contract negotiations are behind us, we must look forward at the health benefits that we have and to keep up our due diligence to maintaining them.

The health benefits office has been informed that insurance costs are going to see an increase very soon. Our health benefits

consultant is working to keep those increases in check but nonetheless, we need to be on our toes!

The membership should always ask “how it all works”, and know that how it worked in the past can help explain how it will work in the future. Most employers provide health coverage for their employees as long as they are still employed with them. Our union health benefits go well beyond

that. However, cost increases are inevitable. Your administrators and trustees are working hard to keep costs down and benefits up.

Please don't hesitate to call your health benefits office or our offices if you have ideas or questions. Thank you all!

*In Solidarity,  
Gaylord R. “Rusty” Roten  
IBEW 11 President*



## CONTRACT RATIFIED

*Continued from page 1*

to negotiate from a stronger bargaining position in the future, to shifting our 8 p.m. start times, to increasing our boot stipend,” said Senior Assistant Business Manager Robert Corona. “It also included expanded language in our scope to shore up work in the prevailing Hydrogen field. This will make it more difficult for the laborers and other trades to try and claim work in our electrical field. These are all wins for Local 11 members, and we were able to

achieve these because we stood together in solidarity.”

### Members Flex Their Collective Power

Every gain in this new agreement was the direct result a relentless campaign thousands of Local 11 members waged to pressure NECA for a contract that delivers a fair wage that compensates them for the hard work and expertise they bring to every job site.

First, thousands of IW & ITS members voted overwhelmingly in solidarity to support a strike authorization, if necessary, with 87 percent voting Yes. That

authorization was followed by an even more unified 91 percent who voted overwhelmingly to reject NECA's initial, unacceptable contract offer.

Next, hundreds of brothers and sisters then volunteered to staff phone banks to rally fellow members and answer questions. Hundreds more braved record-setting heat to demonstrate in front of the ETI to carry signs and raise their voices and let NECA know their hard work deserves fair pay.

Crystal Herrera, a Journey Level Inside Wireman, was one of the Local 11 brothers and sisters who demonstrated in front of the ETI

to send a message to NECA, which was received.

“We were out there because we work really hard, and we deserve a fair contract,” Herrera said. “All through COVID we were told we were essential workers, and now when it was coming time to pay up contractors weren't putting their money where their mouth is. It felt like we're being treated more like an expense than an asset.”

“Our members spoke, and NECA heard them,” IBEW 11 Business Manager Joël Barton said. “Every member should be proud of what we have accomplished together.”



# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Continued from page 1

Donald Trotter, the decision to volunteer and give back was an easy one that evoked memories of the tough times he faced being raised in a single-parent home where his mother was the sole provider.

“I was less fortunate growing up, and there were times when we needed a place to stay and we went to live with different family members, and that wasn’t easy,” Trotter said. “So, when I heard that there was a family that needed that same assistance I wish I would’ve had when I was a child, I was eager to dive in and give a hand.”

Trotter installed light fixtures, light switches, plugs, and receptacles, and he took pride knowing that the work he was doing would play a part in helping this family get a fresh start and build new memories in a home they can call their own.

“When that family moves in, I want them to look up and see the lights and see the different amenities that we installed, and I

want them to smile and say, ‘Those guys did a really good job,’” Trotter said. “I love to make people happy.”

Victor Blas, another EWMC member and Local 11 Inside Wireman Journeyman working alongside Trotter, shared Trotter’s perspective and echoed his sentiments.

“I grew up in low-income housing in a crowded one-bedroom apartment, and when I heard about this plan to build the electrical infrastructure for this family that has been waiting for housing for three years, I immediately said I wanted to be a part of it,” Blas said. “Getting to be blessed with the opportunity to be an IBEW and EWMC member, it was definitely an honor for me to be there and help out.”

Blas also had the opportunity to meet the family who will be moving into the home he and his union brothers are helping create.

“The family showed up, and it was just incredible to be there and know that you’re part of building this house for them and their kids,” Blas said. “It was an honor to get

to apply our trade to give back, because they’ve been living in this small space for so long.”

## Motivated by Oscar Martinez

Hovering over the site and in the back of members’ minds was the life and spirit of Local 11 brother Oscar Martinez, who recently lost his battle with cancer and was the guiding force behind finding this family a new home.

Martinez dedicated his work and private life to help give others the opportunity to realize a better life. His selflessness and solidarity with his union brothers and sisters was seemingly endless and left an impact.

“There was definitely more energy on the site knowing that we were doing this in part in Oscar’s honor, because this was his idea,” Blas said. “He was definitely there in spirit.”

Both Trotter and Blas said their decision to volunteer is rooted in the union ethos of fraternity and reaching back to lift others up.

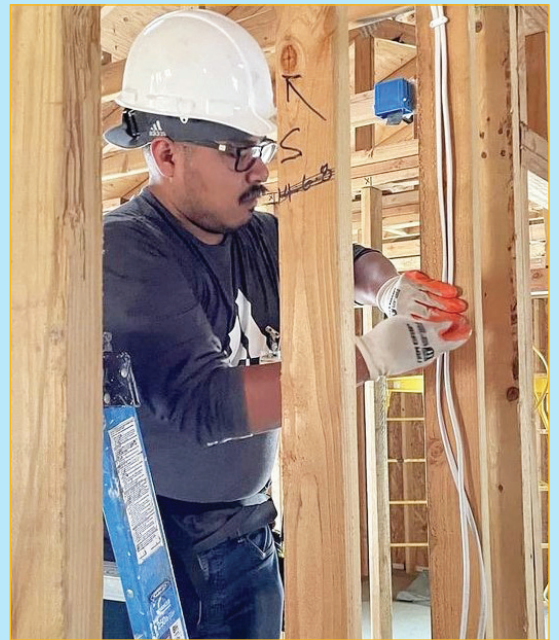
“The union brothers and sisters before me believed in me and gave

me my opportunity, so why not give to another family in need or another brother or sister in need?” Trotter said. “Volunteer as much as you can. It creates more integrity within yourself.”

Blas said that union commitment to solidarity and superior craftsmanship extended to making sure every wire, every switch, and every plug was installed to IBEW standards.

“We were making sure that everything we did was double checked, triple checked, because we’re putting our IBEW stamp and seal on it,” Blas said. “It was an honor to work on a project like this and represent IBEW 11 and the EWMC. I’m definitely looking forward to working on other projects like this.”

“It was a blessing for us to donate our time to help this family in need,” said EWMC Los Angeles President and IBEW 11 Apprenticeship Coordinator Alton Wilkerson. “I’m very proud of these brothers for the hard work they put into this project. I’m honored to call them my brothers.”



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

Brothers and Sisters,  
Greetings from District One North. I hope this report finds you and your families well. Temperatures are finally feeling like summer in LA. Be sure to stay hydrated and watch out for your Brothers and Sisters on the job. Work in the area is still moving along slowly. The residential project at Sunset and Western being done by SBE is finally starting to move now that the hole has been dug. Other projects along Sunset and Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital are still stalled. We are moving along with the existing LAUSD projects, LA Metro with various contractors at Purple Line 1, and Prop HHH residential work. These projects have hired a few people but nothing significant yet. Congratulations, Brother Osvaldo Sosa on getting your 25-year pin at the District 1 meeting in July! Stay safe and be well. Always feel free to reach out via email, phone or text.

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

Hollywood Park has several upcoming projects. Two parking structures to be built in the SOFI PARKING LOT are coming very soon. One is finishing at the end of July, and the other two will then start. Right now, COSM is an Immersive Theater being built by SASCO ELECTRIC. There will be more manpower needed as the project moves further along. Two hotels are planned for the SOFI PARKING LOT, as well. The INTUIT DOME/CLIPPERS ARENA will need more manpower as more systems come online. GECTWO is doing all the broadcasting for the project. ZELLER ELECTRIC is doing the power for the Oculus and will also need more manpower. Look for other calls to be coming, as well. It is an honor to serve the IBEW Local 11 membership. Be well.

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

Greetings. The contractors I speak to tell me the third quarter should bring more work for our members local wide. The Santa Monica/Malibu School District is slated to start a couple of new projects. We are also seeing calls coming in from contractors like R&R who continue to perform work in the Twin Towers in Century City. Johnson Peltier received the contract for the LAX Fuel Relocation Project, and I expect them to start putting calls in soon. Fisk has started calling for the Purple Line 2 to build out at the Constellation and Rodeo Stations, and with the tunnel boring almost completed on Purple Line 3 we should see calls coming in for Westwood Station shortly. In other news, I'd like to invite everyone to come to the South Bay Hall on September 29 to participate in our Annual Blood Drive. More info to follow.

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

Good day, Brothers & Sisters.  
We are in the height of summer heat, so please take care when working outside. Stay hydrated, take breaks, find shade when needed, look at other members for signs of heat-related illness, and stay safe. We are continuing work with CSI Electric at the 225 MW Battery, Sub Station and solar fields, shade structures at Acton-Agua Dulce school district, and the Defense plants. We have Reyes & Sons starting the new Cedar Hall building from the ground up at Antelope Valley College and work continuing at Antelope Valley Hospital, just to name a few. Please sign up for classes being held at the District 5 Hall. Special thanks to our officers Steve Joyner, Chris Bonfilio, Juan Winters, Miguel Sanchez, Mike Kaminski, Ron Dreiling, Rolando Ramos and Dion Jensen. God bless, Brothers and Sisters. See everyone at the picnic!

**EAA REPORT**  
**Marleen Fonseca**

Negotiations continue for all EAA contracts. On the table are cost of living adjustments, work schedules, reducing the time required for employees to achieve top step in their salary range, and more. A tentative agreement is expected no later than November 2023. Concurrently, the EAA Governor and Unit Council election process will begin in August. There will be three Governor seats on the ballot. Our Member Development Program (MDP) is back with a Seminar to help pass portions of city exams. The training scheduled for August includes writing an advisory essay and doing your best on a city interview. Last, EAA recently awarded 12 college scholarships to dependents/family members of EAA members. Each received \$4,850 to offset their many costs. Congratulations to our EAA families!

- On the Horizon:**
- EAA members will attend Dodgers Union Night on September 23, 2023!
  - EAA is sponsoring the Caricature booth at the IBEW Local 11 annual picnic!

**SOUND AND COMMUNICATIONS**  
**Christine Austria-Lozoya**

Brothers and Sisters, our Unit 9 meeting has had poor attendance these last few months. Unfortunately, NO QUORUM seems to be the norm. We have tried to accommodate all members regarding the meeting location. The request to meet at Commerce was fulfilled, but there was still limited or no attendance. If membership feels no need to hold our meetings, we can honor that request. The General Membership meetings would be a great opportunity to begin attending. You will have all the information first-hand instead of second-hand, with the ability to ask questions to the appropriate people who can better answer and inform you. It is an honor and privilege to be able to represent you in this capacity, so my hope is that this Unit can pull together and redeem ourselves. After all, we are 974 members STRONG!

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

Following are current contract negotiation updates:  
**City:** Negotiations over issues from the one-year contract continue. I hope to have more substantive information soon. Negotiations for the successor MOU begin later this year.  
**LAUSD:** After an extended wait, LAUSD members were rewarded with an historic contract totaling over 26 percent over a four-year period. These raises will place our members on equal footing with our other public sector members in terms of pay and benefits. I appreciate your patience! Please continue to be patient while LAUSD processes the retro pay and salary adjustments.  
For more information, please attend our monthly Unit 14 meeting on the fourth Thursday of every month at 5 pm. Please also feel free to contact me at (626) 712-4769. Or email me directly at [arida@ibew11.org](mailto:arida@ibew11.org).

**CELEBRATING LOCAL 11'S**  
**81st Anniversary**  
**AT THE**  
**ANNUAL UNION PICNIC AND HEALTH FAIR**

**August 5<sup>th</sup>, 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

**NO PETS ALLOWED**

**REGISTRATION FOR TICKETS WILL BE ONLINE ONLY • PLEASE VISIT: [www.ibew11.org](http://www.ibew11.org)**

**DISTRICT 1**  
Francisco Arago

This has been an eventful month for our Local. We have had the privilege once again as union members to participate in voting to accept or reject a contract that has been negotiated by our Local and NECA. Only 10 percent of our country is unionized and has the right to negotiate the terms and conditions of their employment.

Historically, an element that has weakened the labor movement is apathy and inactivity among union members. This negotiation cycle has sparked conversations and participation in several ways with our members. This is something that we can hold onto and build upon: Union Activism. Solidarity means unity; it means standing together. Solidarity more than any other word defines the power of our great Labor Movement. Stay informed, participate in your District meetings and General meetings, and seek out volunteer opportunities.

**DISTRICT 3**  
Carlos Rodarte

Hello, Brothers and Sisters. It is an honor and privilege to serve you all. At District 3 our

organizing efforts continue, and we are driving across the west side of Los Angeles looking for construction projects. There are dozens of commercial and residential non-union jobsites north of LAX in Westchester, Marina del Rey, and Venice. On Lincoln Blvd in Santa Monica a couple of jobsites are in the beginning stages of demolition and removal of contaminated soil. I will continue to monitor these sites as they staff up. I am continuing to support and guide our new members who were recently organized by holding 30-, 60-, and 90-day Q&A sessions to answer any questions or address any concerns they might have about our Local. I would also like to thank you, Brothers and Sisters, for your continued support in sending me jobsite locations! That helps me tremendously.

**DISTRICT 5**  
Beto Gonzales

Greetings, sisters and brothers from District 5 Antelope Valley. I have been holding sign-ups in the Pasadena office for construction-wiremen to provide manpower for the 225 MW solar battery project for CSI Electric. The project is providing jobs for women and men in the community, and I want to thank our IBEW members who reached out to me with their referrals for those in need of employment. We

can definitely feel the heat in the Antelope Valley with temperatures of over 100 degrees forecast for the rest of the summer. Working in the solar fields is physically demanding and exhausting on these hot summer days. Drink plenty of water not only on the job site but also at home. I continue to visit non-union job sites and reach out to the unrepresented electricians to encourage them join the IBEW if they meet our qualifications for either the apprenticeship or as a Journeyman.

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

Brothers and Sisters, I have had the privilege to serve as your Organizer for some time. Growing our unit has been a learning experience and has given me the opportunity to not only meet new potential candidates but also grow and maintain relationships with current Unit members. Being able to learn what goes on in our field of work is very helpful. Remember: you all are our eyes and ears out there! Going to jobsites and making sure everything is well with our members is always a priority. As a reminder, there are so many projects within LA County, so if you are in need of any assistance or a job visit, please reach out. Stay safe and hydrate!

**VETERANS CORNER**

**Veterans Committee Continues Its Commitment to Reach Out**

By Mike Kufchak  
Veterans Organizer

Greetings, fellow veterans. Senior Assistant Business Manager Robert Corona and I recently attended the Service Contract Act in San Francisco. This was a 9th District Training where we discussed and presented the following Acts:

- Davis-Bacon Act which covered the

construction of facilities aboard U.S. government installations.

- Walsh-Healy Act which covers the manufacturing of equipment for the U.S. government.
- The Service Contract Act of 1965 which covers certain employees who perform service work aboard military installations for the U.S. government.

Each of the above culminates with the opportunity to create



Organizing Opportunities for the IBEW by organizing the workers. Our Veterans Committee also continues our commitment to community outreach. Here is a

photo taken at one of our latest volunteer efforts. Please consider joining us. Our next project will be at ETI in September. More information will follow next month.

**APPRENTICESHIP CORNER**

**Bootcamps, Safety First, and Calls For Apprentices**

By Alton Wilkerson  
Apprentice Coordinator

With the recent increase in calls for apprentices lately, we have been able to start a couple of bootcamps. Over 40 apprentices attended the first bootcamp, and over 80 apprentices attended the second. There have been more

calls for apprentices in the Marathon refinery and for the solar work in Lancaster. These types of projects have extremely high safety protocols in place due to environment and weather conditions. Safety was a top priority in my speech with the new apprentices. Some apprentices even assisted our Local 11 EWMC

members at a volunteer project with Habitat for Humanity, where we donated our time to do all the electrical rough in at a new home for a family of five in need of adequate housing. Please welcome these new apprentices on your job sites with open arms and show them what being a part of IBEW Local 11 is all about.

Sign up now for the District 4 Blood Drive on August 1, from 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Everyone who donates will receive a limited-edition IBEW 11 Blood Drive sticker and pin. 400 Chatsworth Drive, San Fernando. Make your appointment to donate at: [bit.ly/3O17Gjt](https://bit.ly/3O17Gjt)