

L.A.'s Transit Future Runs Straight Through IBEW 11



Local 11 Brothers and Sisters Laying the Foundation for a New Transportation Future at Metro Purple Line Wilshire/La Brea Station

L.A.'s

Metro Purple Line – part of L.A.'s “Twenty-Eight by 2028” initiative to complete 28 major transportation infrastructure projects ahead of the 2028 Summer Olympics – will soon usher in a new transportation era and transform how the city moves.

The \$9 billion-dollar, state-of-the-art Purple Line will offer Angelenos a “life-changing” transit option – enabling riders to travel between

downtown and Westwood in under 25 minutes – lessen traffic, and help reduce smog. The Purple Line, which starts in downtown L.A. and will extend nine miles to Westwood, has been in the works since 2014.

Phase One is a \$2.8 billion project that runs nearly four miles under Wilshire Blvd. from Wilshire and Western Avenue to La Cienega Blvd. Fifteen IBEW 11 members have been working for the past four years building out the Wilshire/La Brea Station.

It has been a herculean effort, with thousands of construction

workers across all crafts boring complex tunnels and building out thousands of miles of conduit through unrelenting cement. The project includes train controls and signals, communications, traction power supply and distribution, and fare collection systems.

For Local 11 members building out the Wilshire/La Brea station, precision has been their watchword since day one. Tunnel jobs are unlike other construction and call for tighter specs because the work is encased in concrete. For

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AUGUST 2023

WWW.IBEW11.ORG

NEWS @ 11

THE NEWSLETTER OF IBEW LOCAL 11

Road to Recovery Starts With One Step...Then Another

“I don’t have a problem.” “I don’t need help.” “I’m strong enough to handle this by myself.” These are sorts of swirls of rationalizations and denials that can line the slippery slope into the crater of acute and chronic substance abuse and mental trauma.

IBEW 11 brother Zac Solomon has

heard them all before because he hit that bottom. But he’s bounced back and is launching a new mental health and substance abuse recovery program to make sure his fellow members know they don’t have to fall that far – that there are brothers and sisters who have been where

(Continued on page 9)



IBEW Hails New Worker Pay Rules



Revamped ETI Hit of the Industry BBQ



Members Speak Out from Purple Line



BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Joël Barton

As We Celebrate Summer of Labor Let's Gear Up for Labor Day, Head Out to the Ballpark, and Keep an Eye on Our Health

Greetings sisters and brothers, Summer is winding down, Labor Day is approaching, and it is a time for celebration.

Over 3,000 members and their families enjoyed IBEW Local 11's annual picnic. This year was one of the best with games and events

for everyone. A heartfelt thanks to Picnic Committee Chairman Dave Grabowski and all the volunteers who graciously gave their time and energy to make sure the picnic was a success. We did, however, miss "Pirate" Mitch Klein who has been conducting the children's games for over 30 years. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day catching up with friends and family.

We are gearing up for the 44th Labor Day Parade and Rally to be held in Wilmington, Calif. Come march with your brothers and sisters. Assembly begins at 8 am at

Broad and E streets with the march commencing at 10 am. The parade will culminate at Banning Park where there will be food, drinks, speakers and music. Call the Administrative office at (626) 243-9706 to either volunteer to march in the parade or help barbecue hot dogs for the participants. Bring your family, and spend some time in solidarity with your fellow union members. Be sure and check in with a Local 11 staff member to receive your IBEW commemorative T-shirt and sign up for tickets to Union Night at Dodger Stadium.

On Saturday, Sept. 23 at 6:10 pm, the Dodgers will honor Union Labor as they take on their arch nemesis, the San Francisco Giants. You can only get the T-shirt and Dodgers tickets at the Labor Day parade and rally if you check in with a Local 11 staff member and march in the parade or help with cooking at Banning Park. Come on out and represent Labor.

At a recent Health Trust meeting, our consultant presented us with projected increases from our medical providers for 2024. Every July, the providers look back at the previous year's plan utilization rates and project new rates for the coming year. Our consultant then goes and negotiates those new rates. The Trustees were able to stave off large monetary increases last

year with some slight adjustments to our plans. The next few years present even more hurdles, with health care costs spiraling out of control. Join your Trustees, plan professionals, and consultant as we present you with the projected increases and how to assimilate those while still providing good health care coverage.

There will be a WebEx meeting on Friday, Sept. 15 at 5 pm. Go to www.ibew11.org/calendar for information on how to participate. We are also looking into the IBEW Family Medical Care Plan (FMCP), which will provide excellent health benefits at substantial savings to participants. This webinar will be held on Friday, Sept. 22 at 5 pm. Go to www.ibew11.org/calendar for instructions on how to log in. We will compile the different options for members to vote on, which will be sent out shortly after these meetings. Please plan to participate in these important meetings to continue to enjoy your excellent health care benefits.

As always, it is an honor and privilege to serve the members of IBEW Local Union 11 as your Business Manager.

Fraternally,
Joël Barton
IBEW 11 Business Manager

We are gearing up for the 44th Labor Day Parade and Rally to be held in Wilmington, Calif. Make it a point to come and march with your brothers and sisters.

IBEW 11's NEWS@11

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Why Politics Is Important for Our Members

Brothers and Sisters, I hope you all fared well during Tropical Storm Hilary. My flight to Sacramento was delayed. Many flights from other airports were also delayed or outright canceled.

Why was I flying to Sacramento? All IBEW Locals in California have formed a common committee – the California State Association of Electrical Workers (CSAEW) – to address political issues in our state. CSAEW meets twice each year in person in Sacramento (and monthly on Zoom) to discuss political strategies and conduct

political lobbying when we are in the State Capitol.

Presently, our state is “Pro Union” and mostly Democratic. It’s our responsibility to push for “Pro Union” legislation that gets IBEW more jobs and keeps the jobs here in our state. We call ahead and book appointments to visit our legislators at their offices. We discuss the issues with them, and we ask them to vote for a particular issue – and sometimes we ask them to vote against a particular issue.

On this recent trip we asked our legislators to vote for a bill that covers work at the refineries to be expanded to cover other “Green

Energy” fuels which will create good IBEW jobs in the near future. On our last day in Sacramento, the legislative committee reviewing the bill recommended acceptance, and the elected officials in the California Assembly voted to approve the bill. That’s just one example of why politics is such an important aspect of our Union and the Building Trades.

As always, if you have any questions, please give our offices a call. Thank you for the privilege to serve you all.

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



IBEW Hails New Rule That Will Hike Construction Workers' Pay

By Jeremy Kehoe

IBEW

International leadership celebrated President Biden administration’s move to raise the prevailing wage standard of the Davis-Bacon Act, which will put thousands of extra dollars in the pockets of nearly 1 million construction crews working on federally funded projects.

President Biden this month directed the Department of Labor to reinstate the Act’s “prevailing wage” provision – the basic hourly rate of pay and benefits paid to workers – and restore its previous definition, a definition which former President Ronald Reagan scrapped 40 years ago.

“The Biden-Harris administration’s announcement updating Davis-Bacon is a victory for construction workers across the country,” said IBEW International President Kenneth W. Cooper. “The rule modernizes and strengthens the prevailing wage regulations. It is proof once again, that union members are at the heart of the Biden-Harris administration’s efforts to rebuild America by restoring the middle class.”

The update to the Act – which the U.S. Supreme Court described as “a minimum wage law designed

for the benefit of construction workers” to prevent contractors from basing their bids on wages lower than those prevailing in the area – will now redefine how those prevailing wages are calculated.

The new rule gives the DOL authority to adopt prevailing wages determined by state and local governments, issue wage determinations for labor classifications where insufficient data was received through the wage survey process, and update outdated wage rates.

Before Reagan changed the federal rule in the 1980s, employers were required to pay construction workers on federal projects the equivalent of wages paid to at least 30 percent of workers in a given trade in a specific geographical area. Reagan changed that rule so that the prevailing wage was determined by wages paid to 50 percent of workers.

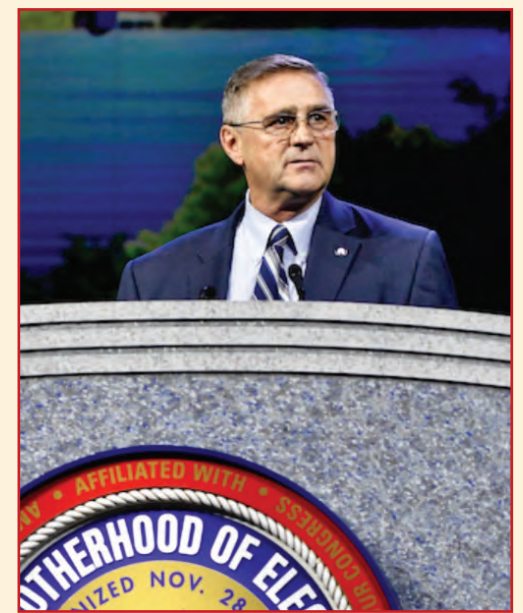
“The final rule reverses Reagan-era changes that weakened the law’s original intent – ensuring that federally funded or assisted projects support good-paying local jobs for local workers,” Cooper said. “For the past 40 years, a single low-wage contractor could depress wage rates on federal contracts. This rule change will allow construction workers to gain ground they lost in the 1980s, increasing the wages of millions and preventing

low-road contractors from undercutting the workforce.”

The new rule will provide periodic updates for non-collectively bargained wages, add anti-retaliation provisions, and strengthen the DOL’s ability to withhold money from a federal contractor in order to pay employees their lost wages.

This latest pro-union move by the Biden administration comes on the heels of a flurry of infrastructure and technology investment and pro-labor legislation developed and passed by Biden and the Democratic party.

This legislation includes Inflation Reduction Act – the largest investment in infrastructure since President Eisenhower’s Interstate Highway System – which contains about \$400 billion in green-energy spending, including tax credits for green-energy producers and purchasers of electric vehicles, and the CHIPS and Science Act, which provides more than \$50 billion to encourage manufacturers of semiconductors to build factories in the United States. These two pieces of legislation build upon the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill, which President Biden signed into law in November 2021. These three landmark



laws are expected to create millions of jobs in construction, manufacturing, clean energy, and other sectors.

“The (Davis-Bacon) rule is especially significant given the major federal investments the Biden-Harris administration has made through the Inflation Reduction Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the CHIPS and Science Act, which will create hundreds of thousands of prevailing wage jobs for IBEW members,” Cooper said. “The IBEW applauds this historic achievement and looks forward to continuing to work with the administration to ensure that federal investments support family-sustaining careers.”

Local 11's Annual Picnic a Celebration of Fun, Family, and Fraternity

By Jeremy Kehoe

More than 3,000 IBEW 11 brothers and sisters and their families came together under a picture-postcard Southern California blue sky this month for a well-earned afternoon of face-painting, rock-climbing, horseshoe-tossing, balloon-twisting, axe-throwing, cigar-chomping, and children-encased-in-plastic-bubbles-ramming-into-each-other-at-full-speed fun at the Annual Picnic and Health Fair.

The theme was family, and entertainment options abounded for attendees of all ages as members celebrated the often life-changing bonds of camaraderie, solidarity, and fraternity that lie at the core of Local 11's foundation.

"This picnic symbolizes our family, our unity, and how we all work together and want to be a part of each other's family," said IBEW 11 President Rusty Roten.

"Being an IBEW 11 member means being part of a family."

"I love being a part of this union," said Inside Wireman Chrisanthi Dafopoulos. "This is my family."

The picnic was a perfect moment-in-time snapshot of the diversity, individuality, and fidelity that make Local 11 a true family.

The pictures speak a thousand words.

And, hear members tell their stories about how IBEW 11 membership has changed their lives here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HGFQJWfkb



Revamped ETI Plays Starring Role in 35th Annual Electrical Industry BBQ

IBEW

11 members, NECA contractors, local elected officials, and members from our sister Locals broke bread and got an inside look at the revamped Electrical Training Institute in Commerce last week at the 35th Annual Electrical Industry BBQ.

“Our annual industry BBQ is an opportunity for IBEW Local 11 and our NECA contractors to highlight our training facility for local politicians and awarding agencies so they can see the value in utilizing our skilled and trained electricians on projects in our area,” said Senior Assistant Business Manager Robert Corona. “We get to show local politicians the importance of Project Labor Agreements and where their constituents go to get educated

and trained in the electrical field. Anyone who visits our Electrical Training Institute is impressed with our classrooms and labs and the level of education our apprentices and journeyman receive, and when they attend our Annual Industry Night BBQ they get a tasty dinner to boot!”

ETI Training Director David Nott gave attendees a guided tour of the nation’s largest training program, where 2,200 students and journeymen attend classes every year. Since taking over as Training Director in February, Nott has embarked on a series of physical and logistical initiatives to ensure the ETI equips every student with the highest skills and education they need to succeed on the job.

Nott said creating not just the biggest but the best ETI in the nation requires a top-down commitment from all 120 staff members 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 is ‘Everything we do is going to be world class,’” Nott said.



PURPLE LINE

Continued from page 1

many apprentices and veteran wiremen, the experience in the tunnels has been a first.

Delvon Lambkins, Project Superintendent, took IBEW 11 Business Manager Joël Barton on a tour of the station where he has worked for the last four of the five years the station has been under construction. Lambkins estimates the job will take another one to two years to complete.

“The first year we embedded the track grounding. The second year we worked on the interior wall work and did the pouring in place. The third year we were doing the deck work for the slabs. By the fourth year, we were doing the interior walls,” Lambkins said.

Deadline Pressure

Supervisors feel the pressure to meet delivery schedules, but they have to balance those pressures with being exact – no mistakes. Karltheus Nelson has been a foreman on the job for over two years. This is his first tunnel job, and it has unique challenges.

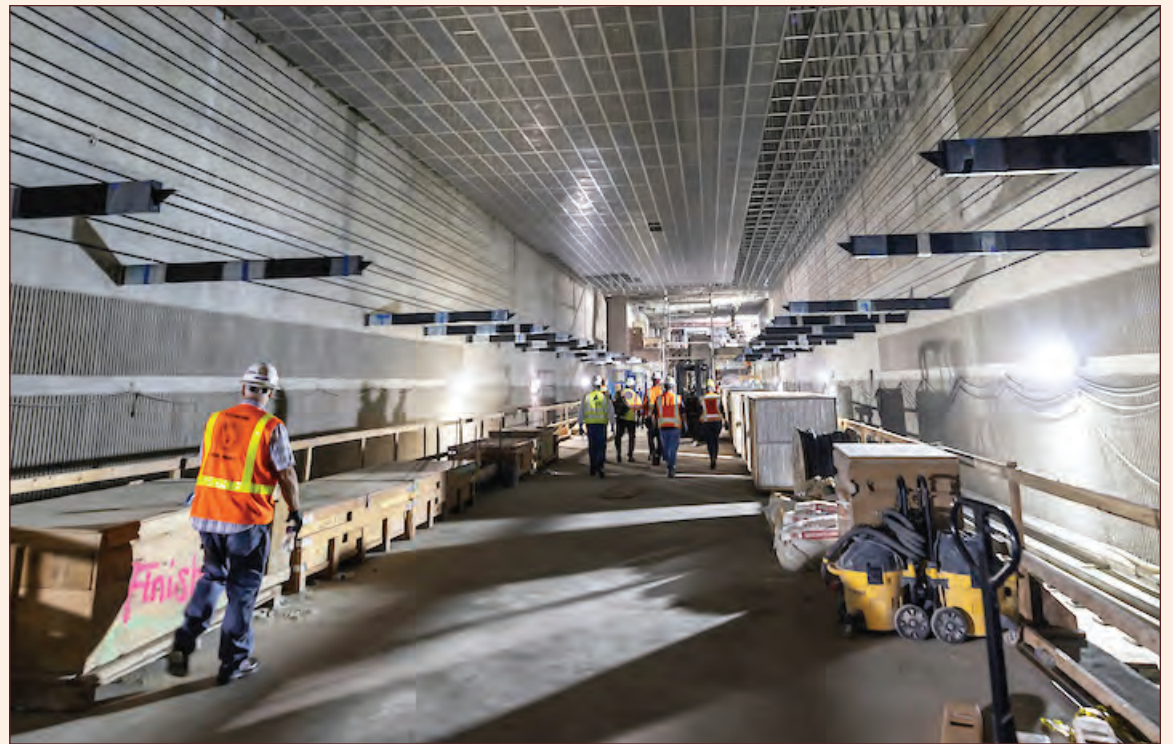
“It’s a fight every day to keep everyone motivated and on schedule. It takes a lot of determination, but I love it. It’s very challenging,” Nelson said.

Nelson, an L.A. resident, is looking forward to the day once the Purple Line is completed when his “kids won’t have to drive, and it will free up traffic and gridlock on the streets of LA.”

He’s also grateful for the opportunities the union has given him and his crew.

“I have two of the best women apprentices on this job,” Nelson said. “There’s a lot of opportunities for women in the field – it’s a great career. I’d definitely encourage my own daughters to join IBEW. Great benefits, great retirement. You can’t beat it.”

Natalie Cervantes, a 4th year apprentice, agrees. “I love this job. It’s gotten me buff,” she laughs. “I’m learning a lot – to troubleshoot, to



fix pipe in confined spaces, how to run rebar, climb walls, and the list goes on.”

For Cervantes joining the union was lifechanging. The mother of five children, she said she only previously dreamed of being able to support her family. Now she can.

“Two of my kids wear glasses. Thanks to our benefits, I can afford them now,” she said.

For Christian Ortega, an Inside Wireman for the past nine years, Metro work is nothing new. While he’s been on the Purple Line project for less than a year, his Metro experience spans other aspects of the massive MTA project.

“These Metro projects are great jobs for everyone,” Ortega said. “Not only is the city creating good jobs for many of us, it’s also getting people from point A to B more efficiently. That’s great for our community and for our ecosystem.”

Ortega said PLAs are responsible for the good job he now holds.

“Thanks to PLAs, this is an all-union job that requires apprentices and local hire. Our apprentices are lucky to be working on these kinds of jobs. They’re getting a set of life skills.”

Ortega himself is a product of local hire.

“I’m from this community, in this zip code. It’s been great for me and my family. I was able to buy a house in the last year because of PLAs. Plus, I have great health benefits. Before I was working union, I had to pay hundreds of dollars for healthcare for my children. One of my daughters has asthma and wears glasses. Now, it costs me \$5 on our plan.”

Ortega said he is most grateful for the impact this project will have on his family’s quality of life. “As a parent, I know the job I’m working on is helping reduce smog and clean up the environment. We’re all looking forward to developing clean energy technology like the Purple Line and making a better future for my children.”





Members Speak Out



"I've been on the Purple Line project my entire apprenticeship - three years now. Underground work is all I know. At first it was stressful, but then I got a handle on it, and I really like it. I love working with other women on the job - I call them my site sisters. The union's given me a lot of opportunities - career and leadership development, building administrative and political skills, and more."

- DANNIELLE LEWIS
Third-Year Apprentice



"I'm very grateful for this project. It's creating more work for our members, and it's also good work. It's a PLA job. It's also good for LA - for our economy, traffic reduction, less smog. It's good all around. I really appreciate the union. I've bought a house, have good benefits and a good retirement plan."

- CHRISTIAN ORTEGA
Ninth-Year Inside Wireman



"I love it! I've been on the job for a year and a half. I'm learning so many things - systems, how to troubleshoot, how to work in confined spaces, and run rebar. The union's been life changing for me. I have five children, and as a result of this job, I've been able to support my family. Two of my kids wear glasses, and we can afford to get them now - no problem."

- NATALIE CERVANTES
Fourth-Year Apprentice



"I've got a great crew here. I've been on the job two and a half years, and there's no room for error. We fight every day to get it right. This is my first tunnel job, and I'm really proud to be working on it, pushing mass transit, and helping to eliminate smog. It'll be great to just be able to park the car and take the train with my kids all over L.A. I'm looking forward to that."

- KARLTHEUS NELSON
Foreman



"It's hard work. I've only been on the job two months, but I love it. It's very challenging. A real learning curve for me. I worked in hospitals before this, where we ran wire through drywall. Concrete is very unforgiving. You have to be much more precise. Think more. This project is massive. I'm proud to be working on it. It's going to cut down on traffic and make L.A. a better place."

- SAL LAGUNAS
Inside Wireman

DISTRICT 3
Carlos Rodarte

Brothers and Sisters,

August is almost over and summer is coming to an end. There are many projects being built across the South Bay in District 2. I recently received an email on the Dodge construction report. The Dodge report is a list of construction projects available to bid on. It provides comprehensive information about each project, including the project name and project type, location, and cost. One project is the Palos Verdes Recycled Water Pump Station. The valuation for this project is \$1.8 million. I will be passing by to see who is doing the electrical installation. Just a reminder: you are my eyes and ears. If you see any construction projects being built, please let the Organizing Department know.

DISTRICT 4
Ruben Mendoza

Greetings from District 4. Going through my first negotiation process and being on staff was an experience. It was all hands on deck, visiting multiple jobs sites daily, speaking with members and answering their questions, encouraging members to vote, and advising them on the simplicity of the Election Buddy voting site. The membership's solidarity showed NECA that we would not back down! We held two practice picket lines throughout L.A. County, and the membership was fully engaged and supportive for a "Just and Fair Contract". ¡Si Se Puede! IBEW Local 11 continues to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers at UNITE HERE Local 11

who continue their fight for a "Just and Fair" contract! The fight is not over. Let's stand in unity, and continue to fight together!

DISTRICT 6
Tommy Zielomski

I recently had the privilege of attending two conferences. The first was IBEW's 9th District progress meeting. IBEW's 9th District includes California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Alaska, and parts of Idaho. Here, we learned new organizing strategies and talked about what's working in other locals as well as current and future issues they are facing. We were also updated on new membership counts. From 2012 to 2022 IBEW membership grew by 37,609. The 9th District grew by 30,089, which represents about 80 percent of the total growth. The second conference was RENEW. This conference focused on getting young electrical workers involved in growing their local union and becoming involved in leadership roles. I attended workshops including "Bystander Upstaged", "Toastmasters", "Code of Excellence", and "Who's Got Bias?" These conferences provided another opportunity to learn and grow as an organizer to help me better serve Local 11.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Mario Barragan

The San Gabriel Valley Civic Alliance is a coalition uniting business, community, labor, and elected officials at various levels to advance the greater good in the San Gabriel Valley. This collaboration of community stakeholders aims to foster mutually beneficial partnerships that uplift the served communities. I've been honored

with a role on the Board of Directors, signifying my commitment to sustaining collaborative initiatives. My acceptance signifies a dedication to ensuring labor's active involvement in decision-making processes rather than being sidelined. Conversations with community partners have revealed a lack of understanding about labor unions and their integral role in communities. By illustrating the potential unions offer, such as lifelong middle-class career paths, partnerships gain significance. These discussions often lead to Project Labor Agreements with both public agencies and private developers. Serving IBEW Local 11 members in this capacity remains a privilege and an honor.

MANUFACTURING & INDUSTRIAL
Kristian Mendoza

I hope this message finds you and yours well. It was nice seeing everyone at the annual picnic. Thanks to everyone who stopped by our tent to say hello and purchase merchandise from our booth. We are meeting with the cities of Palmdale and Kinkisharyo this week to discuss future contracts to secure long-term employment for our members and to keep our members working in the communities they live in. Covanta ratified its new CBA at the end of July and received many gains on the new contract, including annual increases to the 401(k). They will see the retro pay to mid-August that will date back to January 1 for wages as well as their 401(k). Thank you for allowing me to serve this great local. If you have any questions or concerns about Manufacturing or Industrial, please feel free to contact me.

AGENT REPORTS

DISTRICT 2
Gary Tomlin

Brothers & Sisters,

- Following are a few in-progress projects:
- CSI: San Pedro Market Place Renovation
 - CSI: CSULB LAI & Physics Lab
 - Gregg Electric: Boeing Enclave new tilt ups by Long Beach Airport
 - Neubauer Electric: Cerritos Comm College Health/Science Building
 - LEED Electric: Port of Long Beach D48-50 Transit Shed Renovation
 - Polaris at Bellflower Court House
- Following are upcoming projects:
- Harbor UCLA, five-year plus project Rosendin/ Meadows JV. Currently, just the new parking structure is being built.
 - Long Beach City College Building G Music/ Theatre Arts Project
 - CSI at LA Harbor College new two-story nursing building
 - Long Beach City College Building MM (2nd phase)
 - Taft Electric: Port of LA Promenade Phase II
 - PLA for City of Long Beach: \$100 Million

Belmont Beach & Aquatics Center
If I haven't been out to your project, call or text me the location so I can stop by.

DISTRICT 4
Marc Greenfield

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters from the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys. I would like to thank everyone who donated blood at our August Unit Meeting Blood Drive which was hosted by Childrens Hospital and the District 4 Welfare Committee. Twenty-five people donated and surely saved some lives! Mortenson should start calling out for the 80 Mega Watt Battery Storage very soon. This job should max out at approximately 50 journeymen and apprentices. The 14-gate replacement project at Burbank Airport will be going out to bid shortly. Construction should begin by year's end. That is when the East Valley Light Rail Project is expected to start. This is a multibillion-dollar project that includes 11 stations and a maintenance facility for metro trains. The L.A. Rams' training facility is still in the planning stages, and it will be covered by a PLA. I hope to see all of you at our next Unit Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 5!

DISTRICT 6
Jacob Troncoza

I have been attending city council meetings in various cities to support our advocates and attempt to capture work. Below are a sample of current jobs available in D6 (there are many more small/medium jobs as well):

- Apollo, City of Industry, LA Recorders Office
- CSI, City of Hope, Duarte
- Baker, Queen of the Valley, West Covina
- Mass, Gold Line Extension LRT
- Rosendin, Rio Hondo CC, Whittier

Welcome Kelly Oliver, who will assist me as District 6 Business Agent. Kelly brings a wealth of experience, and I am sure will do a fine job representing members. I will always be available to assist members with all their needs. I humbly thank you and send blessings to your families. I am honored and privileged to serve the members of D6.

COMPLIANCE
Veronica Martinez

A few General Membership meetings ago I informed those present that if they
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AGENT REPORTS

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had any issues with the Department of Industrial Relations' responsiveness to their electrical exam or obtaining their trainee or certification cards to please reach out to me. In response to this announcement, many members contacted me informing me that they paid but had not received cards (despite follow up) or that their applications were lost in the system. If this is happening to you, please email me at martinez@ibew11.org so I can assist you. I will need: 1) copy(s) of your correspondence or application to the DIR, 2) your address and drivers license number, 3) the date you submitted the application or request, and 4) a copy of your receipt or cashiers check/money order. Once I communicate with an Electrical Certification representative, I will electronically copy you on all future correspondence.

CW/CE Jackie Waltman

Hi everyone. I wanted to share that we now have two Prep Codes classes in session at the ETI for CW6s. If you need a class, please contact me. It appears the Motor Control is in the works for CE1/CE2 members. Please sign up right away, because seats are going fast. Also,

please remember it is your responsibility to make sure your trainee card is valid. Don't wait until the last minute to renew it. Also, remember you must sign the book every day to take a job call either on your phone or by going to your nearest dispatch hall by 7:30 am. As always, be nice to each other and help your brothers and sisters. It is an honor to represent you. Please contact me whenever you need any assistance. Watch out for one another, and be safe.

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION Chris Longoria

Intelligent Transportation Systems (Unit 66):

The division has experienced consistent growth over the past 18 months, increasing by nearly 20%. With the renegotiated 3-Year contract now in effect, we can continue to take on the task of constructing and strengthening our nation's infrastructure.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 21 at 5 p.m. at ETI

Railroad Communication & Signal Maintenance (Unit 17):

The Railroad and Signal Unit also engaged in negotiations and successfully secured a new contract, aligning with the process by entering into a renewed 3-Year Agreement with our Contracting Partners.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 14 at 5 p.m. at ETI

Performing the duties of your business representative is an honor and a privilege. Feel free to contact me directly at (626) 318-6333 or via email at clongoria@ibew11.org

REFINERIES Manny Solis

Work in all of our refineries remains strong. Most of our refinery contractors are currently placing calls for journeymen and apprentices. Schultz Mechanical is at Marathon Carson, and Wilmington. M.B. Herzog is at PBF Refinery, Torrance. Newtron Electric is at World Energy, Paramount. Johnson Peltier is at Chevron, El Segundo. Contra Costa Electric is also at Chevron, El Segundo and at Phillips 66, Wilmington and Phillips 66, Carson. All refinery contractors require members to have the RSO20 card, while some other course completion certificates are required by each contractor. Following is a list of the additional course completion certificates needed:

- TWIC card
- NFPA70E course completion
- OSHA 30 course completion
- Industrial skills orientation course

As we approach the fall, many of our refinery contractors have turnarounds scheduled and will be hiring many Level B Instrumentation Technicians and many High Voltage Cable Splicers. Get your certs ready!

RECOVERY

Continued from page 1

they are now ready to pull them up – and that they are never alone.

Solomon, an Inside Wireman and IBEW 11 member since 2015, partnered with Local 11 Safety Officer Mike Costigan in 2022, and together they created and launched the local's first-ever, district-by-district substance abuse and mental health recovery program. In these open forums members who may be struggling can come together and share and learn from those who have overcome those same physical and psychological battles.

"Construction workers, especially electricians, tend to be strong men and women who don't talk about our feelings and don't discuss our private issues, and that can't be further from what needs to happen," Solomon said. "We need to be able to openly discuss these sorts of issues if we need help."

Starting this month Solomon will begin hosting meetings at each Local 11 district meeting hall, where he will help members set up a template he spent the last six months developing (based on the 12-step addiction recovery model) that members can then run themselves.

"We're working to develop an internal group of people who have experienced these issues or are currently going through them so they can connect and talk with one another and help each other out, because for me what I found is that my recovery comes from working with others who are suffering the same thing and helping them," Solomon said.

Solomon's recovery program is already

building momentum even before it begins.

"We already have quite a few members who are ready to show up who have had success with recovery and are interested in getting this program going," Solomon said. "Hopefully, over time people who were maybe afraid to come forward or afraid to say something will start peeking their heads into these rooms and say, 'Hey, I heard about this and now I see there are people going and maybe I'll come and check it out and get some help.'"

Solomon, who is recovering from drug and alcohol addiction and has been sober for the last 11-and-a-half years, said the journey back from the abyss of addiction and psychological trauma like depression and panic attacks is a series of steps.

Admitting a problem is one; asking for help is another. A third is breaking down the stubborn stereotypes among workers in the construction and electrical industries that equate asking for help with weakness.

"I think the largest hurdle will be stigma," Costigan said. "But I also think members in need will realize that they are not alone in this fight. Where else but with your sisters and brothers would you rather fight this battle?"

"We're kind of raised not to talk about these sorts of things. Construction and electrical workers tend to want to feel like we're impenetrable and invincible and we can do whatever we need to and we don't need to talk about our feelings. We just kind of hold it all in and think we can get through whatever we're going through – whether it's issues with substances or issues with mental health, or financial issues – on our own."

Often, simply speaking to someone who shares your same thoughts and anxieties – or just sitting in that same room listening to others tell their stories – can initiate the path to recovery.

"True recovery comes from opening up and sharing these feeling with others who are going through these same things," Solomon said. "A big part of my recovery from substance abuse was finding out that I wasn't alone – that there are other people out there who struggled with the same things and somehow they found a way to get through it."

That recognition of shared struggle, Solomon said, is a key step to recovery.

"Being able to discuss that opened me up from being someone who wasn't interested in another man telling me how to run my life to hearing someone who struggled with the same things and got through it, and from there I was able to take suggestions and make some changes that completely changed my life," Solomon said.

First Meeting is September 6

For Solomon, the final ingredient in his ongoing recovery was the camaraderie and fraternity he immediately found among Local 11 members as well as the logistical support the union is providing to help launch and sustain his outreach campaign.

"IBEW 11 is so important to me," Solomon said. "The whole point of the union is that we all succeed together – when one of us thrives we all thrive. And Local 11 has given me all the support I need to help another member out."

The first IBEW Local 11 AA meeting will be held Sept. 6 at 5 pm at the District 4 Hall, 400 Chatsworth Drive, San Fernando.

Local 11 Walks Off With Softball Championship

While IBEW 11 brothers and sisters were enjoying a day of food, fun, and family at the Annual Picnic and Health Fair in Bellflower, 30 miles away in Chino Hills Local 11's Team A squad was taking care of business by winning the championship at the 2023 LA/OC Building Trades Softball Tournament.

Local 11 was crowned the 2023 LA/OC Building Trades Tournament Upper Division champions after a 14-8 victory over IBEW 441.

"We've been building this team for the last four years, so I felt like it was just a matter of

"We've been building this team for the last four years, so I felt like it was just a matter of time before we won one."

— Matthew Dirling
Journeyman, Inside Wireman



time before we won one," said Journeyman, Inside Wireman, eight-year IBEW 11 member, and team manager, pitcher, and outfielder Matthew Dirling.

Dirling credits the team's success to their bond on and off the field.

"Our bond outside of softball is terrific," Dirling said. "We love hanging out together, and that's what helps build our chemistry on the field. It's all about solidarity."

Lingering in the back of a few players' minds was the realization that they were missing out on the picnic, but it did not deter them from their mission: hoisting that championship trophy.

"A couple of guys mentioned missing the Picnic, but when it really comes down to it we all love softball that much," Dirling said. "Taking home that trophy was a good feeling."

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Labor Day Parade
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March Starts At: Broad & E. St. in Wilmington
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Assembly Begins At 8 AM | March Departs At 10 AM
Formacion Empezala 8 AM | La Marcha Sale 10 AM

Rally at Banning Park at 12 PM | Speakers, Music,
Shuttle Buses, Hot Dogs, Soft Drinks, & More!
Renunion en Banning Park 12 PM | Voceros, Musica,
Autobuses de Transporte, Hot Dogs, Sodas, y Mucho Mas!

MONDAY/LUNES - SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

Seats are limited. To secure your tickets, members who volunteer at the Labor Day Parade on Sept. 4 will be issued a Local 11 T-shirt and Dodger tickets. Check in with your agent or email rsvp@ibew11.org

**Union Night at
Dodger Stadium**

Join us as the Los Angeles Dodgers face division rival San Francisco Giants

**Saturday
Sept. 23, 2023
6:10 PM**

Labor 411 & **LABOR FEDERATION**

Seats are limited. To secure your tickets, members who volunteer at the Labor Day Parade on Sept. 4 will be issued a Local 11 T-shirt and Dodger tickets. Check in with your agent or email rsvp@ibew11.org