



Labor Leaders, Political Allies Show up in Force to Help IBEW 11 Celebrate Hot Labor Summer



U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis were among the political notables marching in solidarity alongside union brothers and sisters at the Labor Day Parade in Wilmington.

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THE NEWSLETTER OF IBEW LOCAL 11

NEWS @ 11

By Oren Peleg

The Labor Day sun shone brightly on the parade route in downtown Wilmington, where IBEW 11 brothers and sisters marched with U.S. Representative Adam Schiff, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, Local 11 Business Manager Joël Barton, Local 11 President Rusty Roten, and other union leaders to celebrate this year's hot labor summer.

Southern California has been a hotbed of renewed, cross-union activism with WGA, SAG-AFTRA, and

UNITE HERE members and dozens of other unions representing teachers, nurses, sanitation workers, baristas, and other sectors staging protests and temporary walkouts.

IBEW 11 members themselves voted to authorize a strike in July before agreeing to terms on a new contract with NECA after weeks of intense negotiations.

"We were on the precipice of going on strike, but thankfully we settled and came up with a great contract," Barton said. "We're here to support others like UNITE HERE 11, and SAG-AFTRA who are still in negotiations. That's what this parade is about: showing support

for fellow union members."

Many strikes nationwide center around the impact of emerging technologies. For WGA and SAG-AFTRA, it's how streaming is affecting residuals and the future impact of AI. For UAW it's how automation and electric vehicle production will drive wages.

For IBEW the transition to green energy is expected to be a boon. Local 11 "has to be in the center of the green transition in Los Angeles," Mayor Bass said. "IBEW has always been on the forefront of fighting for workers. As we move forward to zero emissions, we have to make sure we

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Local 11 Welcomes Contractor Tony Demaria Electric Back into the IBEW Family

By Jeremy Kehoe

The IBEW 11 family grew 19 journeymen and apprentices stronger this month after Local 11's Organizing Department reunited with and re-signed a signatory

contract with Tony Demaria Electric.

TDE had been an IBEW 11 signatory contractor back in the 1990s, but even after they left the union and moved away from electrical work to focus more on industrial field-testing services, Local 11 Business Manager Joël

Barton kept in contact with the family-owned, Wilmington-based operation and its President and CEO Katie Scarlett Reyes.

As a result of the new signatory agreement, all work performed by TDE electricians (or any need TDE

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IW Dafopoulos Gets a New Lease on Life



Kelly Oliver Marches Into District 6



Chess Club Makes Its Opening Move



BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Joël Barton

Labor Day Power 2023

Fall is here already, the sun is rising later and setting earlier, and the morning air is feeling crisp and cool.

Thank you to all the members and their families who attended this year's Labor Day Parade and Rally. IBEW Local 11 was well represented by over 100 members and their families wearing our trademark "eco-green" t-shirts. The plan was for our stake bed truck 'float' to highlight LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis, but in the spirit of the day, many of our IBEW Local 11 members and their families hopped aboard. Supervisor Solis was a good sport and joined them, enamored by the fun family atmosphere.

City Councilmember Heather Hutt was also on board and Congresswoman Judy Chu stopped the parade mid route to join the members as we rolled down Avalon Boulevard.

Congressman Adam Schiff, IBEW Local 11's endorsed candidate for United States Senate, donned the "eco-green" t-shirt and marched

alongside Local 11 members and their families the entire length of the parade. Please remember to support Adam next year in his race for Senate. He has done so much for the IBEW and is the right choice for the U.S. Senate.

IBEW Local 11, through our partnerships with the LA/OC Building and Construction Trades Council and CREED, are signing more Project Labor Agreements than ever before. Our relationship with various legislators and public works is resulting in more jobs for union electricians.

As a result, work is picking up for the Inside Wireman, and the out of workbook has finally dropped below 700. However, work remains slow for the Sound and Communication classification. We continue to take in new apprentices for all programs, and many of our apprentices have graduated and turned out to start their careers as journeyman wiremen.

Please be sure to keep all your certifications up to date so you don't miss out on some of these jobs. Don't let your California State

Certification run out – it will affect your ability to work, since having a state certification is the law.

Health Care Plan Update

I have some important news to share. The Trustees on the Southern California IBEW-NECA Health Plan have been meeting continually over the last month since our consultant informed us of the need for additional funding for the Plan Year 2024. Despite dramatically rising healthcare costs, IBEW members have been able to enjoy minimal increases over the last four years. But now the hammer has finally come down, and our providers are requiring substantial increases amounting to over \$3 per hour – nearly a 15 percent increase.

But we think we have come up with a good plan to lessen the blow to most of our members and keep our high-quality health care in place with only minimal raises in premiums. Rather than burden everyone with the entire cost, the Trustees are recommending some changes which would only affect a small percentage of the

participants. Most members will not be impacted at all.

But, and there's a big but, all of this is contingent upon you designating half of your upcoming \$2 raise to the Health Plan in the next allocation on January 27, 2024. We hope the membership will take rising healthcare costs to heart and authorize these changes. If we don't vote to make these changes, we will be forced to make drastic cutbacks to the plan to keep it funded.

The SC IBEW-NECA Trust Fund will be sending out a mailer in October with all the changes which will go into effect January 1, 2024. Be sure to read it and reach out to the Pension and Health Trust if you have any questions or need further clarification.

Remember, our health plan is one of the best in the country, and it is our job to protect that valuable asset for our families now and for the next generation. We are stronger when we work together. #IBEWStrong!

*In Solidarity,
Joël Barton
IBEW 11 Business Manager*

IBEW 11's NEWS@11

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Reverse Layoffs Protect Our Members

Brothers and Sisters, Did you know that your IBEW Local 11 Collective Bargaining Agreement offers you certain protections, like reverse layoffs, that are only available at our Local?

Some Locals (not all) have a reverse layoff procedure where, when the project is ending or the work slows down, Books 4, then Book 3, then Book 2, and finally

Book 1 are to be “let go” in that order. The intent of this layoff procedure is to help keep the “Local hands” on the job for as long as possible.

We also have a rule that one out of every five workers on the job has to be at least age 50 or older. This protects our older members from age discrimination.

There are also rules that support the contractor, as well. For example, foremen and certain “specialty” required journeymen

are exempt from reverse layoffs. Those specialty classifications include certified welders, certified instrumentation techs, and high-voltage cable splicers.

Like all IBEW Locals, IBEW Local 11 is happy to share work opportunities when it is abundant. When the job market slows, that’s when we have to “look out for our own” members or “Local hands.”

If you have any issues or concerns please don’t hesitate to contact any of our Local agents



or call our offices. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you all!

Respectfully,
Gaylor R. “Rusty” Roten
President IBEW Local 11

Electrifying the Future

A Conversation with IBEW 9th District International Vice President Dave Reaves

“Leading the Ninth District of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is truly thrilling at this juncture. With our remarkable surge in membership, strong job market, and substantial federal investments for infrastructure and emerging electrical innovations, I project a significant increase in IBEW membership and career opportunities,” said Dave Reaves, newly appointed International Vice President of IBEW’s Ninth District. Reaves assumed his role March 1, and despite his brief seven-month tenure, he is already leaving a significant imprint and engaging membership extensively.

Reaves has been a tireless advocate for union workers in Alaska, championing their rights and fostering a strong, supportive community for electrical workers throughout our region. A former Business Manager from Alaska’s Local 1547, Reaves began his career with IBEW as a Journeyman Lineman before he was selected to serve as an IBEW International Representative. His reputation as an innovative and skillful negotiator precedes him, and he is widely known for his straightforward communication and protecting IBEW members with strong representation.

Reaves places a high emphasis on expanding membership.

“Given the anticipated surge in opportunities stemming from the Biden Administration’s \$1.2-trillion infrastructure legislation – encompassing EV expansion, wind and

solar projects, battery storage, grid modernization, and more – IBEW must significantly increase our membership to open up fresh career prospects for the next generation of electrical workers,” Reaves said. “All electrical work must be organized for IBEW electricians and power professionals – delivering higher wages, quality healthcare, and dependable pensions for all that want a career in the electrical industry.”

IBEW’s 9th District includes the western regional United States, including California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii, plus part of Idaho as well as Guam and Saipan. It is the largest district in the IBEW with 155,000 members. Reaves has a goal is to grow our membership to 200,000 members strong over the next five years.

IVP Dave Reaves sat down with us to share his vision for the future of IBEW’s Ninth District.

What are your goals for the IBEW Ninth District over the next few years?

No question, continued growth will lead the way. We’re already the largest District in the IBEW, and I’m proud to say we’re pioneering the way with added diversity, and strategically growing our membership with tools like alternate pathways, transitional agreements, direct hire MOUs, and in bringing more veterans into our ranks. We lead the nation. The programs and community outreach efforts we start here are built upon our member engagement, and often



District 9 took home an Excellence in Organizing award from the International for the most new members organized in. The award was presented to International Vice President Dave Reaves (center) by International President Kenneth Cooper (left), and International Secretary-Treasurer Paul Noble (right).

becomes a model for the rest of the IBEW. I want that to continue.

We will grow our market share. With new funding and investments in IBEW jobs with the Biden Administration, IBEW will be at the forefront of delivering thousands of new job opportunities and quality construction careers to communities across our region. We will expand these new opportunities, especially with the return of our ‘Made in America’ manufacturing industries, including manufacturing recycling and repurposing of batteries, electric buses and clean transit, EV charging

stations buildouts, and converting buildings to be more energy efficient or all electric. We are working with locals on pilot programs that will grow our membership.

Tell us about your other top priorities.

Safety will continue to be a top priority. Our union was founded on protecting IBEW members on job sites, and we must continue to ensure their safety, well-being, and rights are protected. Additionally, as we continue to grow our membership, we must

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Inside Wireman Dafopoulos' Path to a New Life Leads Straight Through IBEW 11

By Jeremy Kehoe

Chrisanthi Dafopoulos' decision to start over and write a new chapter began 18 months and 3,000 miles ago, and since becoming an IBEW 11 member last year, that pivotal moment now feels like a million miles and a lifetime away.

Dafopoulos, now a First Year Inside Wireman, is on a path to becoming a Journeyman, and has her eyes firmly set on the future: becoming a Foreman — a level only a handful of women in the electrical industry currently occupy.

"My life has completely changed for the best," Dafopoulos said. "I love what I do, I wake up happy to go to work every day. Every day is something different, and every day I'm learning so much. I wouldn't change anything."

To say that Dafopoulos has embraced her new union family would be an understatement. She is actively involved in Local 11's EMPOWER (ETI Mentorship Program Offering Women Extra Resources), Solidarity, and Social Media committees' monthly meetings, and she recently marched alongside her IBEW brothers and sisters in the LA Pride Parade.

"All of those sisters who are in those meetings are awesome women who've taken care of me and been there for me," Dafopoulos said. "It definitely helps being involved and going to meetings because it helps to know who your family is. Local 11 is my family. They look out for me, check in on me, and if I ever need anything they're always there for me."

Even in the apprentice classes she is now taking, Dafopoulos says she feels like she is constantly unsealing new windows of opportunity.

"As an IBEW 11 member we get five years of free school, and they teach us and provide us with so much information so that we can continue our career and journey out," Dafopoulos said. "I'm just fascinated with all of it. Next week's class is going to be about conduit bending, and I just can't wait."

Challenges and Opportunities

Like many of her fellow Local 11 brothers and sisters who cannot afford to live where they work, Dafopoulos must commute long hours to the job site, and being a woman in a male-dominated industry has presented some definite challenges — ones she quickly rectified.

"It was a little hard at first

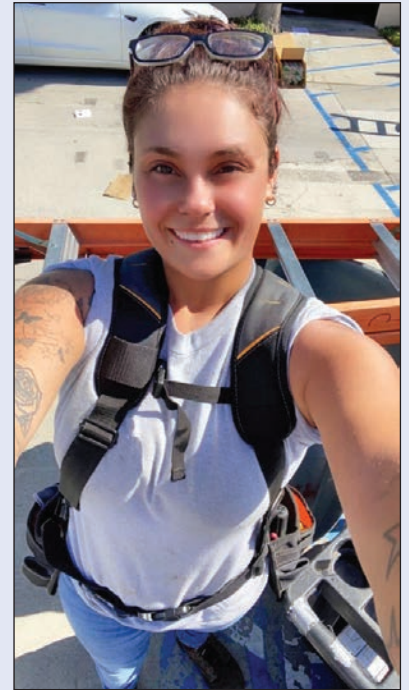
working with some men who thought because I'm a woman I'd do whatever they say," she said. "But I'm a strong, independent woman. I've been taking care of myself my whole life, so I let people know who I am really quick."

Despite the long hours, the low pay in her current classification, and occasional male-centric on-the-job attitudes, Dafopoulos is convinced her life has changed forever for the better — a trajectory she traces directly back to her union membership.

"It's a lot of hard work and you definitely need to have patience, but it's worth it," she said.

And, as open and honest as Dafopoulos is about her past mistakes that led her to make the move from her old life in Florida to her new one in California, she is equally enthusiastic and optimistic about the future with her new union family.

"If you really set your mind and set your goals, you can definitely do this," Dafopoulos said. "I've been on my own since I was 13, in and out of prison. I definitely went down the wrong path, and the last time I got sent away really woke me up. Moving out to California, joining IBEW 11, and becoming an electrician has completely changed my life."



An Added Bonus

Dafopoulos' mother in Florida has been taking care of Chrisanthi's three children. In December, her children will join her in California — another reward of her new union path.

"My mom stepped up and took care of (my three children), and she has given me this time to get everything situated and make sure I am ready and stable enough to take care of them," she said. "My mom is really proud of me and the changes I have made in my life. I was never close with my mom, so to hear her say that is huge. I'm ready for my children to be out here with me. I can't wait."

TONY DEMARIA

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has for additional electrical workers) must be done under the IBEW 11 flag.

"This is a big deal having Tony Demaria back in the IBEW 11 family," said Robert Corona, IBEW 11's Senior Assistant Business Manager. "They're very committed to being

"We think we can help grow the IBEW, and we know the IBEW can help us grow."

— TDE PRESIDENT & CEO KATIE SCARLETT REYES

very involved with Local 11 and are going to be joining NECA, and at the same time we're going to do whatever we can to make sure they get a good footing in this Local again."

TDE's Reyes says she is equally excited about re-establishing the partnership with IBEW 11 and the opportunities that lie ahead.

"We came around full circle to IBEW and recognized that through this partnership we can both bring so much to the table for each other," Reyes said. "We think we can help grow the IBEW, and we know the IBEW can help us grow and present us with new opportunities."

Reyes said that feeling of optimism was validated by the fact that TDE's technicians voted unanimously to rejoin Local 11.

"We recognized the opportunity as a company, and I truly believed in the better life this move could provide in retirement and everything else for our team, and it made me feel so much better about it knowing that our staff recognized it too and voted

unanimously," Reyes said. "Their belief in the IBEW was really cool and made me feel really good about this decision."

The signatory agreement with TDE comes on the heels of the recent announcement that IBEW 11's Organizing Department this year has signed the third-highest number of new contractors among all national IBEW locals. This year, the 9th District alone, of which Local 11 is the largest chapter, accounted for 80 percent of total membership growth — a testament to the diligence and commitment of the Local's Organizing Department.

"I always tell our members that when you take a call for any contractor we've signed to go out and give them your best and remind them the reason why they signed up with IBEW is because of the skilled and trained personnel they can acquire through our halls," Corona said. "So, always give your best and show them what IBEW is all about. That's always how we do things. That's the IBEW 11 way."

Oliver Marches Into New District 6 Role With Get-It-Done Attitude

By Jeremy Kehoe

Kelly Oliver still prefers his well-worn Carhartt work pants to his crisp new dress slacks, but that isn't stopping him from marching full speed into his new role as District 6 Business Representative and applying every lesson he's learned on each rung of his 25-year climb up the IBEW 11 ladder to support his fellow brothers and sisters.

Oliver says he sees his new role representing the roughly 2,000 brothers and sisters of IBEW 11's District 6 – the Local's largest

district – as a natural progression in his evolution from journeyman, foreman, general foreman, site superintendent, area superintendent, and general superintendent.

"In order for me to help the bigger picture, be part of the bigger picture, and make our union stay as good as it is I have to be part of the team and help my fellow members out at this next level I'm at," Oliver said. "Now, I have 2,000 members under my watch who are looking to me to help support and guide them and protect them on the job. This is a serious job, and I take it seriously."

Oliver's decision to step up and step into the new District 6 Business Agent role is rooted in

his Marine Corps commitment to service and always be willing to take action to solve a problem rather than stand on the sidelines.

"I understood that if I want to help make change, instead of being a heckler in the crowd I needed to join the team and do whatever I can do to help our members succeed and get treated fairly, and that's what I intend to do," Oliver said.

Oliver said his personal principle of "If you don't like something, fix it" will be his driving force in every action he takes on behalf of his Local 11 brothers and sisters.

"I see myself as a job-site lawyer who's there to give our members advice and be their first call who can give them advice and help them out when something goes wrong, like if they're not getting paid or they feel they're doing something that's dangerous, or if they think they're being treated unfairly in some way," Oliver said. "I'm their first line of defense, and my job is to be knowledgeable and informative and pass that on to our members."

Even though he is no longer in the field, Oliver said he will apply that same get-it-done, job-site management style as Business Agent.



"I expect everybody to do their job, and that's what every member can expect from me," Oliver said. "I will do my job at the highest level. I'm a union man, and I will represent and protect my fellow union members at the highest level possible."

While Oliver said trading in his familiar field uniform for his new staff one was "bittersweet" and "a little scary", he said he is ready to embrace this next chapter and challenge.

"I learned in the Marine Corp that being in a leadership position is privilege not a right, so I see my new role as a privilege, and I'm humbled by it," Oliver said.

"I will do my job at the highest level. I'm a union man, and I will represent and protect my fellow union members at the highest level possible."

– DISTRICT 6 BUSINESS REP. KELLY OLIVER

Join IBEW 11 and Red Cross to Donate Blood and Give Life

By Mike Costigan
Safety Director

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

Sign up now for IBEW 11's American Red Cross Blood Drive being held on Friday, Sept. 29 from 12 pm – 6 pm at South Bay Hall, 2150 W. 190th Street in Torrance.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: IBEW to schedule an appointment to donate. You can also email mcostigan@ibew11.org or text to 310-503-5337.

The American Red Cross is sounding the alarm that the U.S. blood supply has fallen by nearly 25 percent since early August, to what it describes as "critical low levels." The Red Cross provides about 40 percent of U.S. blood and components.

This blood saves the lives of our neighbors, loved ones, and even ourselves. I am reaching out to all Local 11 members who have donated blood to the American Red Cross in the past, members who have entertained the thought

IBEW LOCAL 11
SOUTH BAY HALL
BLOOD DRIVE

**FRIDAY SEPT. 29TH 12PM TO 6PM
2150 WEST 190TH ST, TORRANCE**

**To sign up
Please email
mcostigan@ibew11.org
or
text (310)503-5337**

Give blood.
Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.
American Red Cross



**Red Cross Blood Drive
IBEW Local #11**

Main Room
2150 West 190th St
Torrance, CA 90504

**Friday, September 29, 2023
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: IBEW to schedule an appointment.
Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RedCross to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



1-800-452-CROSS | 1-800-753-5787 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

of donating, or anyone who wants to make a difference in our communities.

Blood can be donated with a minimum of 56

days between donations, so if you gave recently, please check your calendar. You can make a difference and save lives.

LABOR DAY

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do it in a way that preserves jobs and puts us into the economy of the future.”

Congressman Schiff hailed the central role IBEW members are playing in the green energy transition.

“IBEW is going to be building this future as we transition to renewable energy,” Schiff said. “It’s going to be showing how, as jobs change and the workplace changes, we can make sure we’re not leaving working people behind. In environmental justice and economic justice, IBEW is at the front of the fight.”

“We’re always looking for new ways to have a greener, more sustainable lifestyle,” Supervisor Solis said, stressing this transition is, “not just changing this energy to that – it’s a lifestyle. And Local 11 has the workers who already know how to do the work.”

To showcase just how large a role they expect to play in this transition, Local 11 members donned lime-green shirts to represent green energy.

“That’s what IBEW is about,” Barton said. “We’re the green economy. We’re green energy.”

Shomari Davis, Local 11’s District 1 South Business Representative, said building the future is part of what makes IBEW 11 members so essential.

“American labor is really important to



the strength of America,” Davis said. “IBEW Local 11 is one of the unions that can help build up this country up to where it needs to be. That’s why we support President Biden. He understands the strength of America and the American worker.”

Following the parade, Local 11 members gathered for a cookout at Banning Park. The barbeque is an important time to bring families

together, said Robert Corona, Local 11’s Senior Assistant Business Manager.

“When you bring your kids, it shows them what the labor movement is about, not just your dad or your mom going to work every day and coming home,” Corona said. “It’s about coming together and enjoying a day that unions made for everybody – not just for other union members, but for all workers.”

“IBEW has always been on the forefront of fighting for workers. As we move forward to zero emissions, we have to make sure we do it in a way that preserves jobs and puts us into the economy of the future.”

– Los Angeles Mayor
Karen Bass



“I started out as a union member for SEIU, so I know how important unions are for collective bargaining, project labor agreements, and local hires. I support the union movement. I support the higher wages and the good medical care unions help deliver. I support all of that.”

– Los Angeles County Supervisor
Hilda L. Solis



“IBEW is building the future as we transition to renewable energy. IBEW is going to be showing the way as jobs change and the workplace changes to make sure we’re not leaving working people behind. On environmental justice and economic justice IBEW is at the forefront of the fight.”

– U.S. Representative
Adam Schiff





Members Speak Out

"We're out here today showing our solidarity. We're showing up to show who we are."

– PAUL REVILLA
Journeyman



"I come here every year because it's a family. I've been coming here 22 years. I never miss it. My kids grew up here."

– MIGUEL AQUINO
Journeyman



"I think all unions are important. The most important thing we can continue to do is to show the community that we stand up together."

– ISRAEL ALDRETEE
Journeyman



SAFETY CORNER

Making Life in the Trenches Safer

By Mike Costigan
Safety Director

In anticipation of work picking up in Los Angeles County, it's inevitable that a few new projects will include some underground duct bank work. So, let's review Cal OSHA's regulations regarding trenches.

A trench is defined as a narrow excavation made below the ground where the depth is greater than the width, but not wider than 15 feet. Before beginning an excavation the soil must be evaluated by a competent person to select the appropriate protective systems of trenches five feet or greater.

There are three classifications of soil. Type A soils are the least dangerous and include cohesive soils like clay, silty clay, and clay loam. Type B soils are angular gravel, silt, and sandy clay loam. Type C soils are gravel, sand, and loamy sand.

Each type of soil classification requires different protective systems. Protective systems include sloping or benching, shoring (using aluminum hydraulic or other types of supports to prevent soil movement), and shield trench walls using trench boxes.

Trenches four feet or greater require a means of egress via stairways, ladders, ramps, or other safe means. Plywood may be used to build a ramp if it has cleats or other surface treatment for traction. Trenches 20 feet or deeper require a protective system designed by a registered, professional engineer.

Make sure all materials and spoils are at least two feet back from the edge of trench, and never enter a trench with standing water. Remember to install barricades and barricade tape to warn people not working on any trench-related activities to keep out.

The competent person must perform daily

inspections before each shift. If the competent person discovers any hazardous conditions, exposed employees must be removed from the hazardous area and may not return until necessary precautions have been taken.

Another trench or excavation consideration is hazardous atmospheres, which include oxygen deficiency, high-combustible gas concentration, and high levels of other hazardous substances.

Refresh yourself with Cal OSHA regulations when starting any new dangerous tasks. Review your Cal OSHA reference materials, or visit the Cal OSHA website.



DISTRICT 1 (SOUTH)
Shomari Davis

The Intuit Dome will soon start installing LED Panels for the Oculus inside the arena. Summit Swing has been awarded installation, and they will need manpower. Baker Electric is installing solar, and Gectwo is installing the broadcast system. They will need manpower as well.

ELAC Southgate Educational Center has been awarded to Taft Electric. This is a large LAUSD school being built from the ground up that is in the beginning stages and would be a good call. Olympic and Hill Tower by SASCO Electric is 56+ stories and is around the 8th floor. They will need manpower as they start to build out floors.

Baker Electric is doing a mixed-use project in South Los Angeles that has far to go before completion, and they will need manpower moving forward. It is an honor to serve you.

DISTRICT 1 (NORTH)
Brett Moss

Greetings from District 1 North. I hope this report finds you and your families well.

Temperatures remain high as summer slowly fades. Please stay hydrated, and watch out for your Brothers and Sisters on the job. Work in the area is still moving slowly. Our two larger LAUSD projects at Lincoln High School (Rosendin) and Burroughs Middle School (Taft) are progressing. The residential project at Sunset Blvd. and Western Ave. being done by SBE is starting to move. There are now two tower cranes in place, and they have picked up a few members in multiple classifications.

We are still moving along with Metro, with various contractors at Purple Line 1, as well as Proposition HHH residential work and other smaller LAUSD projects. Each of these projects has hired a few people here and there but nothing substantial yet. Stay safe and be well, and always feel free to reach out to me via email, phone, or text.

DISTRICT 3
Mike Costigan

As summer comes to an end and with the anticipation of more work on the horizon, District 3 still has a few quality jobs calling for manpower on a day-to-day basis. Taft will be starting a project at Alexander Hamilton High School in West L.A. in six weeks. At LAX, they are currently moving the fence on Westchester Parkway to the south to make room for the prefab area of MSC South. Rosendin will be the electrical contractor on that job. Other notables calling: Fisk on Purple Line 2 & 3; Cupertino at SANMOHI; Aldridge LAX Fuel relocation project; and Royal with the north runway relocation project. I am currently keeping a close eye on the Apple project in Culver City, as well as LAX Concourse 0 and Terminal 9, and will give updates as soon as information is available. As always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve the members of IBEW Local #11.

DISTRICT 5
Mitch Klein

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters. As we move into fall, the heat of summer has diminished some. Working in the solar fields has become much more bearable. We continue work on the Estrella and Raceway solar project, the new \$50-million Cedar Hall project at Antelope Valley College, the Palmdale School District, and our new Community Workforce Agreement at Antelope Valley Union High School District to name a few. We are also working at Antelope Valley Hospital as well as our Kaiser facilities. We have seven more solar and battery storage projects on the horizon. I would like to give a big thanks to our officers and members for their help, including a special thanks to Juan Winters and Chris Bonfilio for their hard work at our Local 11 picnic. Thanks as well to Steve Joyner, Alex Murillo, and Mike Kaminski. God bless the IBEW.

SOUND AND COMMUNICATIONS
Christine Austria-Lozoya

Brothers and Sisters,

It is urgent that the Sound & Communications Unit proactively take advantage of the *free* courses being offered by our Local. These courses will advance our skillset, allow us to secure a certification and further enhance the expertise of our trade. Other union trades are currently commissioning our work, including the CWA Union attempting to dominate the fiber market. This will substantially impact us. We need to be driven and assertive to find ways to keep work that legitimately belongs to us!

At the end of September please look out for an FOA certification course being offered at the ETI along with a one-year hybrid "Cisco Certified Network Association" course through Rio Hondo College. In addition, "Transportation Worker Identification Credential" and "Refinery Safety Overview" certifications are highly recommended. Collectively, these courses will ensure that we are well prepared for future work.

UNIT 14 CIVIL SERVICE
Luis Arida

Following are current contract negotiation updates:

City: The City Coalition has begun negotiations for your successor agreement. IBEW Local 11 is at the table with the building trades, and we are working to bring you a contract you deserve. Now is the time to make sure you and your co-workers are members so we have the strongest voice.

LAUSD: The District has made the 2020 bonus payments, but we are still working on the rest. 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.

VETERANS CORNER

By Mike Kufchak
Director of Veteran Affairs

As 2023 comes to a close, the Local 11 Veterans Committee wrapped up their final community outreach project for the year in September. Our final project was a landscaping restoration project conducted at the Net Zero Plus Electrical Training Institute and was quoted by Wayne Ashby, current "Acting Chairman". Our committee came together as a team to enhance our ETI exterior and planted an array of new trees and shrubs.

Local 11 Director of Veteran Affairs Mike Kufchak said our previous Chairwoman Yvonne Rojo aligned projects out in the L.A. communities. This time, though, the Veterans Committee voted to take on a project at home to give back to the very institution that supports us. Many thanks to all the Veterans Committee members who came out to roll up their sleeves and participate. Your efforts are appreciated.



**DISTRICT 1
Paco Arago**

Local 11 organizers recently participated in the IBEW Membership Development Conference in Chicago. Every IBEW Local sent organizers to this conference to strategize and train how to build our part of the American labor movement more effectively. Here, we shared international statistics on IBEW’s growth, areas of success, areas where we need to push harder, and much more. Our Local 11 organizing team placed third among all national organizers for signing new contractors. This is a great success for our Local and the IBEW overall. Our team is excelling. Organizing includes organizing electricians, electrical contractors and organizing work for our members. For every contractor we sign into our Local as a signatory contractor, the more our contractors are bidding work, which creates more jobs for our members.

**DISTRICT 3
Carlos Rodarte**

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters from District 3. This has been a very busy and exciting month. Following are some events I have been involved in since our last article. I attended

a membership development conference in Chicago and a career fair at Inter Coast College in San Gabriel Valley, where I spoke to about 80 students and toured their facility where they have a conduit bending lab, motor lab, and a lighting lab. A couple of students have already applied for the apprenticeship program. They are excited and ready to join the Local. I also participated in the Labor Day parade in Wilmington with our members, the LA/Orange County Building Trades, and LA Federation of Labor. We had a great turnout. We continue to organize contractors and candidates into membership from all classifications and sign up front loaders at the ETI. Thank you.

**DISTRICT 5
Beto Gonzales**

Greetings from District 5. I have been tasked along with other staff members to help EAA in its campaign to organize Council District aides without union representation. We have been meeting with Council aides and letting them know the advantages of having proper representation. I attended this year’s Membership Development Conference in Chicago, where we learned that the 9th District alone accounted for 80 percent of the total membership growth. I want to give a big shout out to the Local 11 organizing team for being

#3 among all IBEW national organizers in signing contractors. Great job.

Thank you to District 5 members who have notified me about different jobsites in our area. I encourage all members to do the same. Please let me know of any jobsites you see on your travels, and I will call you back with my findings.

**SOUND & COMMUNICATIONS
Citlali “Lali” Castillo**

Brothers and Sisters, I hope this finds you well. Recently, at our Membership Development Conference Local 11 came in third in signing signatory contractors among all IBEW chapters. I would like to remind you all how important it is to keep up with our certifications. Continue taking classes available to us as Journeyman at the ETI. Many of the job calls coming in have been asking for certs, and I encourage everyone to make yourselves eligible to take them. The more members sign up for classes, the sooner they can be assembled and scheduled. You can always call the ETI with any questions regarding classes you may want to attend. Let’s continue to show the unrepresented why Local 11 is the right choice. As always, feel free to call me with any questions. Stay safe!

APPRENTICESHIP CORNER

Industrial Work Another Key Skill For Well-Rounded Electricians

By Alton Wilkerson
Apprentice Coordinator

In recent months we’ve seen an uptick in apprentice calls for the refinery. I’d like to encourage all apprentices to consider taking the RSO course and applying for your

TWIC card. I believe industrial work is another good skill to have under your belt when it comes to being a well-rounded electrician. You will see a lot of similar things that you will see in the commercial side of our work, but you will also get your hands on a lot of things that you wouldn’t get to see anywhere else in our trade. There is an added emphasis

on safety in the refinery due to the nature of the environment. That’s why taking the RSO course is a prerequisite to refinery work. If you are interested in taking the RSO course and applying for your TWIC, there are flyers available in the dispatch offices. Or, feel free to email me at awilkerson@ibew11.org or give me a call at 323.517.9610, ext. 2004.

POLITICAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT

IBEW 11 Making Sure Green Energy Wave is Union Powered

By Antonio Sanchez

The 2024 election season has officially kicked off! I have started to interview individual candidates and attended the L.A. County Federation of Labor COPE interviews. Last week, we interviewed congressional incumbents in L.A. County. L.A. Fed COPE interviews will include candidates running for State Assembly and State Senate next.

IBEW Local 11 also sent a few members to the California State

Association of Electrical Workers Lobby Day in Sacramento. There, we talked to legislators about several bills, including SB49 by Sen. Josh Becker. SB49 will facilitate the building of solar arrays over parking lots, creating work for IBEW. Additionally, we spoke about SB740. SB740 will get IBEW members on hydrogen, biofuels, carbon capture, and chemical manufacturing.

Lastly, this legislative session ended Thursday, Sept. 14. We will have a more detailed article about the bills being sent to the Governor’s desk in a later newsletter.



No Member Alone This Thanksgiving!

Host a Brother or Sister This Season with IBEW 11's Break Bread Program

To address the alarming suicide rates in the construction industry, IBEW 11 is teaming up with IBEW 440 for an innovative initiative called the 'Break Bread' program.

The program's primary goal is to ensure that no member feels isolated this Thanksgiving season.

While many of us are fortunate enough to have enough food on our tables and the warmth of our loving families, we acknowledge that not every member shares this privilege. For those of you in a position to extend an invitation to a fellow member who would otherwise spend Thanksgiving

alone, we kindly request you to utilize the QR code below to sign up for the program. By doing so, you offer a sense of belonging and inclusion to those who may be feeling isolated.

And if you are a member without a place to go this Thanksgiving, we encourage you to also use the QR code below to connect with a generous member who has volunteered to host a union brother or sister for the holiday.

We firmly believe that no one should spend this special occasion alone, and through the Break Bread program, we hope to foster a supportive community where everyone feels valued and cared for.

BREAK BREAD PROGRAM

DID YOU KNOW?

MORE AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION WORKERS DIE BY SUICIDE THAN FROM JOB SITE INJURIES OR ACCIDENTS.

NO MEMBER ALONE FOR THANKSGIVING

SIGN UP

For questions please contact
V. Ingalls@IBEW440.org
cherrera@ibew11.org

DAVE REAVES

Continued from page 3

welcome more women, veterans, and persons from communities of concern to diversely grow our IBEW family. I am very proud of the efforts IBEW is undertaking to lead the way in diversity, equity, and inclusion of our membership, and we will continue to promote and elevate the work and community contributions of our members.

Part of this undertaking is recognizing and addressing barriers to achieving an IBEW career. For too many of our members, childcare is a big concern. We are exploring the possibility of onsite childcare and childcare grant opportunities for new apprentices with children and working that into some of our contractor agreements.

We also lead the way in building and managing renewable energy technologies like solar, offshore wind, battery storage, and geothermal sources. Many of our locals are investing in electric vehicles and building charging stations at union halls to advance the opportunity to 'power your fleet' and drive electric. It's about action, not just talk.

How is the IBEW leading the way on green union jobs?

We're building out renewable

energy, but we need to be diligent to make sure new public investments in renewable energy development contain strong labor standards, like prevailing wages, project labor agreements, and apprenticeship utilization. For the first time, federal tax incentives for renewable energy now mandate many of these labor priorities and will result in new IBEW jobs. Our political allies, like President Biden, are delivering for IBEW, and we need to ensure they continue to do so for the long term.

Why is organizing important?

Our core value is organizing and welcoming everyone into the IBEW. IBEW's mission is "to organize all workers in the entire electrical industry in the United States and Canada." I am pleased to share that our Ninth District just received an Excellence in Organizing Award at our IBEW Membership Development Conference. It was a team effort – and we will continue to rely on our rank-and-file members to help grow our family and strengthen our industry. Anyone and everyone needs a union to get respect,

representation, and higher wages, and we're willing to organize everyone into the IBEW.

One innovative program I want to see shared across the entire IBEW is the Veterans Electrical Entry Program being piloted here in the Ninth District, which jumpstarts admission into our apprenticeship program for active military and veterans.

We're also getting creative in growing our membership. IBEW Local 89 is eagerly anticipating welcoming Oregon's legislative aides into our union – a historic milestone, since they will become the first legislative aides in the nation to get a union contract with guaranteed wage increases, benefits, and worker representation.

Can you speak about IBEW 11's leadership role in the western states?

IBEW 11 has led the way in organizing. Your Local is a leader in the District, and Business Manager Joël Barton is doing a terrific job – in innovation, like piloting virtual power plants with the Department of Energy, growing new community and industry areas like rooftop solar and battery storage and putting

power back on the grid. And, of course, you have your Net Zero Plus training facility, where you're identifying new training methods.

How do you manage such a large region?

The Ninth District is vast, but balancing my extensive travel commitments with my core value of spending quality time with my family has been a crucial aspect of my journey.

This commitment to family is at the heart of IBEW's mission to enhance our quality of life. Recently, we welcomed our first grandbaby into the Reaves family, which makes these moments even more precious.

While my role has me constantly on the move, it's essential to me to traverse the District, attend IBEW events, and foster communication among local unions, rank and file members, and Ninth District leaders.

Sharing best practices and insights is pivotal, and since many topics are led by committees, I prioritize conversations with our local union leadership teams to ensure we're aligned on our mission.

Together, through collaboration, we can achieve our shared goals.

Local 11's First-Ever Chess Club Makes Its Opening Move

By Jeremy Kehoe

Since he was a teenager IBEW 11 Inside Wireman Christian Estrada knew when times got tough he could always turn to his chess board and hustle up a game to give him the focus and strength he needed to find a way through.

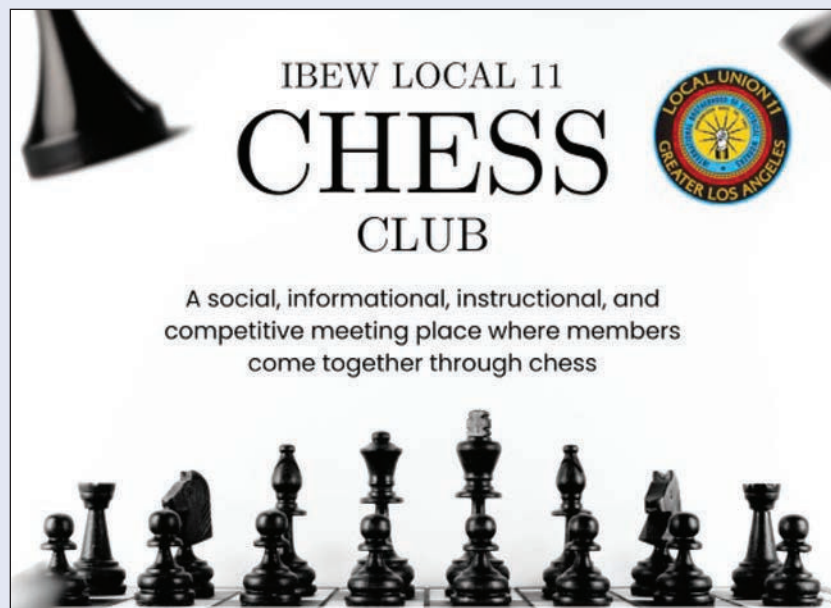
That salvation quickly became a passion — one that he is now determined to share with his

union brothers and sisters. So, he teamed up with fellow Local 11 brother and chess mate Oscar Sandoval — they began playing each other at a Starbucks in Culver City in 2005 — to launch IBEW 11's first-ever Chess Club.

Now, every month Local brothers and sisters of all skill levels — from beginners to masters — gather together on the second floor of IBEW 11's Pasadena headquarters or at the ETI facility in Commerce to unite through chess, match wits,



Christian Estrada (left) and Oscar Sandoval are the leaders behind IBEW 11's new Chess Club.



and plot gambits.

"It has always been a dream of mine to use chess to affect people the way it has affected me," said Estrada, a Local 11 member since 2004. "I like to challenge people, and I like to teach, so I encourage everyone to come out. Let's play, let's learn, and let's do it all together as a union."

When Estrada and Sandoval, a Fifth Year Apprentice who began playing 30 years ago after a priest taught him the game, approached Crystal Herrera, IBEW 11's Director of Member and Community Development, with the idea of creating a chess club as a vehicle to help strengthen the bonds of union solidarity and fraternity, they found an open door and an open mind.

"As Director of Member and Community Development, if there is any way that I can support our membership to get more involved in the Local, I'll help facilitate it, whether that's helping find a space, making a promotional flyer, or getting donuts and coffee," said Herrera. "Whatever members need or want to do to get together in solidarity I'll support them in doing that."

Herrera ordered a few chessboards, invited members to bring their own (since some players are particular about the boards they play on), designed an event flyer, and began promoting on IBEW 11's social media channels as well as handing out notices at the Annual Picnic in August.

"I think it's incredibly important that our members feel heard and valued, especially when they have an idea that might be considered outside the box," Herrera said.

"It's important for members to have spaces where they can come together, talk unionism, and bond with each other over chess or a cigar, or whatever it may be, and have a good time."

While the idea of learning to play chess or becoming a better chess player may feel intimidating (it's not checkers), Estrada and Sandoval say the reward can be overcoming those fears and possibly uncovering and honing a hidden talent — all while surrounded by your union brothers and sisters.

"This is a chance to socialize and learn something new and maybe find a gift within yourself you didn't know you had," Estrada said. "It's important that our IBEW brothers and sisters have these types of ways to interact."

Sandoval said at its core the club represents both the fundamental union values of fraternity, solidarity, and shared brotherhood and sisterhood, as well as a space for members to simply unplug and unwind.

"This is a way for members to sit down and communicate face to face and sit across a table while playing a game and talk about whatever's on their mind," Sandoval said. "That may not sound like much, but it's a pretty big deal. We don't get the chance to do that enough — just get that chance to take a mental break and unwind."

As the word spreads, momentum — and member unity — is building.

"They're already talking about potentially holding an IBEW Local 11 chess tournament down the road, and that would be a lot of fun, too," Herrera said.

IBEW Local 11 Unites to Send Aid to Hawaiians in Need

On Aug. 8, wildfires swept across Maui and killed at least 97 people, making it one of the Hawaii's deadliest disasters. On Aug. 17, dozens of IBEW Local 11 apprentices and staff joined L.A. County Food Bank and L.A. County Federation of Labor volunteers to pack hundreds of boxes of food to send to the victims of the disaster.



IBEW 11 District 1 Organizer Francisco "Paco" Arago (center) leads Local 11 brothers and sisters as they pack and ship critically needed food to Maui wildfire victims.