



SURGE

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BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

LOOKING BACK ON 2005

A Year of Triumph Touched With Sadness

By Brian D'Arcy
Business Manager, Local 18

Last year ran the gamut of emotions, from professional and political highs to a great professional and personal loss. On balance, 2005 saw very significant gains for IBEW Local 18 members and families—for our collective family.

First and foremost, we secured a strong and fair contract, one that reflects the outstanding work we do, as well as the respect we deserve. Then, when we had to, we flexed our political muscle and helped spearhead two major campaigns. Bottom line: Local 18 continued to be a force in the city, a "player" that continued to achieve everything it could on *your* behalf.

In all, four very significant events highlighted 2005, and in looking back on them in chronological order, we have to begin with the most heart-wrenching of them.

THE PASSING OF BROTHER MIGUEL CONTRERAS

On May 6, we were stunned to learn of the untimely and completely unexpected death of Miguel Contreras, the very personable and effective leader of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor. It just did not seem fair: a heart attack at the relatively young age of 52! Even as we struggled to understand why this happened, we remembered Brother Contreras' life and work.

His successes were enhanced, for me, by an enjoyable and enduring personal friendship, both on the job and away from the office. *I continue to miss you, my friend*, even as we welcome the leadership, oratory and political skills of the Fed's new and able leader, Brother Martin Ludlow.

Martin was the Fed's skilled and successful political

director before serving on the Los Angeles City Council. Following Miguel's passing, he quickly became the obvious and strong candidate to succeed as Secretary-Treasurer. Both in recent municipal elections, and as a key player in the statewide campaign against the governor's lousy ballot initiatives, Brother Ludlow proved to be a very shrewd and resourceful political strategist and leader. He is turning out to be a worthy successor to Miguel Contreras, and we look forward to working closely and productively with him and the Fed on issues of mutual interest and import.

THE ELECTION OF MAYOR ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA

On May 17, we helped elect *one of our own*, a former union organizer and president, as Mayor of the City of Los Angeles. Brother Antonio Villaraigosa, one-time Speaker of the State Assembly and City Councilman, came out of the union movement. He instinctively grasped the concerns and goals of working men, women and families. He appreciated unions, and had been a good friend to Local 18.

His priorities reflect the goals of organized labor and the people and families it represents. His heart—and his vision—are in the right place. We continue to want to work with him on issues of mutual interest and import, both concerning the Department of Water and Power, and the general welfare of our city and its residents.

WINNING A NEW CONTRACT

On September 20, by a 10-3 margin, the Los Angeles City Council formally approved our new five-year contract with the Department of Water and Power.

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Our negotiating team, backed by the determination and righteous cause of our members, secured an excellent deal, a triumph of patience, bargaining skills and, when needed, some good old-fashioned public solidarity and political muscle. *"Will Strike if Provoked"* and *"A Deal is A Deal"* became our rallying cries, and they echoed throughout the Department, across the city and at City Hall.

Our contract provides job security, fair wages, continuing excellent benefits, and more secure and brighter futures for Local 18 members and families. It is the essence of union activity and the very reason for the existence of Local 18. It represents a deal fairly and openly reached between labor and management, and it reinforces the value of our work: *since, for some years, utility rates for DWP customers have been some 25% below those of other regional providers, clearly you—our hard-working members—must be doing something right. And you are—every day!*

DEFEATING THE GOVERNOR'S "REFORMS"

On November 8, working Californians, spearheaded by organized labor, led an overwhelming rejection of the governor's ill-conceived, vindictive, out-of-the-mainstream and *unnecessary* slate of so-called "reforms." Reforms they were *not*; they were regressive and targeted against the working men and women who serve California every day.

Organized labor, assisted greatly by the statewide IBEW, helped defeat all this nonsense. We "terminated the terminator!"

The year 2005 saw great triumphs, tempered by loss. It saw the IBEW Local 18 family make significant professional and political gains. It was, on balance, a good year. Now, we look forward to building on our success *this year.*

In unity,

UNION NOTICES

NOTIFY RE: CURRENT ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER – to Local 18 and DWP

NOTIFY RE: CURRENT BENEFICIARIES – to Local 18 for your IBEW Death Benefit and to the DWP Retirement Office

PRE-DESIGNATE PERSONAL PHYSICIAN IN THE EVENT OF WORK INJURY – at DWP Workers' Compensation Office. California law requires your employer to provide and pay for medical treatment if you are injured at work. If you choose your own physician or chiropractor prior to a work related injury, you have the right to treat with that personal physician or chiropractor. Forms may be obtained at the DWP Workers' Comp office.

UNION SPONSORED MEDICAL/DENTAL PLANS – For information, contact our Benefit Service Center at 800/842-6635 or Local 18 offices at 213/387-8274.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE – Local 18 will finance tuition fees and 50% of the cost of required books for union labor-oriented classes *for members only.*

SCHOLARSHIP FUND – Local 18 offers two Trade School Grants per year to union members enrolling in technical, industrial or trade schools — \$250.00 yearly for two years (a total of \$500 per student). In addition, the International Union offers a maximum of 12 scholarships yearly to *members only* for undergraduate study. The scholarships are each worth up to \$3,000 per year to a maximum of eight years.

INQUIRE ABOUT PRESCRIPTION SAFETY GLASSES – Eligible employees are those who require the use of medically prescribed glasses to perform their primary work tasks, and whose primary work requires the use of safety eye wear by Department policy and/or CalOSHA regulations. Questions regarding employee eligibility and coverage should be directed to your primary Business Unit safety representative.

REGISTER TO VOTE – If you have moved or changed your name since the last election, you need to re-register! Registration forms are available online at the State of California's Secretary of State's website: www.ss.ca.gov.

Work Stress: Keeping Your Heart Healthy



Usually, I discuss heart-related matters in February, which is Heart Health Month. But two recent research articles grabbed my attention. I believe they serve as a “wake-up” call for IBEW Local 18 members who not only must deal with non-stop “on-the-job” stress issues out in the field, but also those who have to cope with a bureaucracy and perhaps a difficult boss. *This can be an intense source of stress.* And while stress has yet to be *directly* associated with heart disease, the links are becoming apparent.

One study, which appeared in *The Archives of Internal Medicine*, linked “fair bosses” to an employees’ health status. Specifically, findings from the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health in Helsinki indicated that British civil servants who felt they were being treated fairly at work had a much *lower* incidence of coronary heart disease—the leading cause of death in all Western societies.

The researchers also found that employees who felt they were being treated fairly by their bosses took sick leave much less frequently than those who felt they were treated in an unfair manner. In this study, 6,442 male British civil servants ages 35 to 55 said they considered being treated fairly at work meant that their supervisor considered their viewpoint, shared information about decision-making, and treated individuals equally and in a truthful manner.

Interestingly, this research is in line with previous studies, one of which had shown that employees had lower blood pressure on days they worked with a supervisor they perceived as fair.

Another recent Finnish study published in *Psychosomatic Medicine* pointed to a possible connection between job strain in younger men and the beginnings of atherosclerosis, the build-up of plaque in the arteries that can eventually lead to a heart attack or stroke. Researchers found that among the more than 1,000 young adults they studied, men who reported high levels of job strain were more likely to show signs of early artery narrowing. The same, however, was *not* true of young women.

Indeed, according to the American Heart Association (AHA), more and more evidence suggests a

relationship between the risk of cardiovascular disease and environmental and psychological factors. These factors include job strain, social isolation and personality traits. If you combine work-related stress with other risk factors for heart disease, including smoking, high blood cholesterol, high blood pressure, physical inactivity, being overweight or obese, and diabetes, *you really may be increasing your risk of heart disease.*

The AHA said that more research is needed to find out how stress contributes to heart disease risk. But let’s face it: *managing stress makes sense for your overall health.*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS?

And speaking of stress, the holiday season can also take it’s toll on your health. A 1999 study in *Circulation*, the Journal of the American Heart Association, found that the highest number of deaths from coronary artery disease occurs in December and January. This is something to consider in the future.

Experts note that the stress of preparing for the holidays, combined with the tradition of overeating and over-drinking (not to mention working overtime on the holiday shift), increases a person’s risk for heart disease.

Take it easy during the holidays, and don’t let the pressures of the season—or your boss—stress you out! If you want to learn more about managing stress and/or lowering your heart disease risk, talk to your primary-care physician.

* * *

Through your Blue Cross CaliforniaCare HMO plan and Power CareAdvocate PPO plan, you and your family have access to the finest doctors and one of the most extensive networks in the state. With CaliforniaCare, you can build a relationship with your own network doctor with almost all benefits including doctor visits, hospitalization, well baby care, surgery, eye and hearing exams, for little or no out-of-pocket cost. With the Power CareAdvocate PPO plan, you have the freedom to choose medical services from within Blue Cross’ expansive PPO provider network, or from a non-PPO provider.

Local 18 Welcomed 544 New Brothers and Sisters in 2004

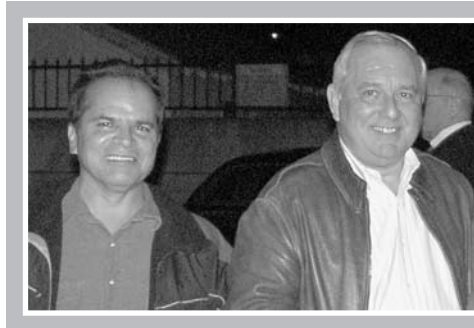
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Acosta, Elmer H.	1	Callebs, Samantha A.	64	Doss, Joseph L.	6	Hartung, Vincent X.	50
Adams, Kenneth	60	Campos, Joseph P.	4	Edemann, Gary M.	12	Hatchard, Virginia R.	18
Aduato, Margaret A.	8	Canto, Dzamna	8	Ellyahky, Tamer W.	31	Hauser, Brian C.	19B
Aguilar, Gabriel	4	Caparaz, Reurreccion V.	33	Emerson, Araceli	8	Hayes-Wilford, Emelda M.	8
Aguilar, Vicente	52	Carbajal-Waid, Mary	33	Enriquez, Linda A.	8	Hernandez, Pete	1
Aguilar, Vicente D.	1	Cardano, Celso	31	Estrada, Kenny D.	6	Hernandez, Ricardo	53
Aimiuwu, Imudiase U.	33	Carlson, Scott M	8	Evans, Troy E.	32	Herrera, Ricardo	17
Alamillo, Ernest	12	Carney, Rolland	5	Fajardo, Sergio	31	Hill, Robert J.	12
Alvarado, Ralph	1	Carraway, Leondas	15	Fellows, Keith A.	6	Hiraoka, Heidi H.	31
Alvarez, Kent	1	Carter, John W.	1	Fernandez, Mark	31	Ho, Lam V.	32
Alvarez, Matthew	6	Carter, Tijuana	8	Finley, Floyd	55	Hoang, Bao	31
Alvarez, Ricardo	1	Cassidy, Joseph J.	1	Fischer, Dustin R.	31	Hoang, Son T.	34
Amador, Joel	13	Cast, Brian J.	34	Fix, Andy	8	Hodges, Sasha A.	8
Angus, Antrecia A.	8	Castaneda, James A.	53	Fleming, Mark D.	31	Holden, Matthias	4
Annicchiarico, Gloria	31	Castillo, Norma E.	18	Fletcher, Edward A.	12	Holloway, Charles C.	34
Aparicio, Joseph P.	1	Castrellon, Jaime	12	Flores, Ruben N.	12	Holmes, Michael	12
Arduini, Demetrius A.	14	Castro, Ramon	17	Fong, Chung	1	Horne, Mark J.	1
Arellano, Sandra	26	Chambers, Charles D.	65	Fonooni, Akbar	34	Houston, Niko	32
Asadourian, Alise	8	Chambers, Charles D.	65	Frances, Walter	63	Howard, Thad A.	1
Ascencion, Michael	1	Chamy, Joseph J.	8	Francis, Niarobia L.	8	Howard-Taylor, Tonya R.	34
Asrat, Elizabeth	33	Chattersee, Aditya V.	8	Franco, Juan C.	32	Huerta, Juan	19
Astengo, Rene B>	13	Cheah, Hai-Yuan	31	Franklin, Patricia R.	17	Hughes, Mark J.	1
Avendano, Maria Inez	8	Chen, Geoffrey T.	31	Frias, Anthony E.	1	Hughes, Thomas W.	4
Baca, Glecya A.	35	Cheng, Anita Y.	33	Frias, Daniel	1	Inutan, Dioscoro R.	32
Banuelos, Gabriela	8	Chin, Anthony S.	32	Froding, Patrick S.	4	Irvine, James	34
Banuelos, Roger	19B	Cho, Grace Y.	8	Fu, Xuqing	31	Iyoha, Ehinomen J.	31
Barksdale, Barry	1	Choi, John	8	Gaines, Lawrence L.	26	Jackson, Chante M.	8
Barnes, William D.	1	Choi, Yunae	8	Gakic, James	17	Jackson, Charles R.	14
Baron, Milus	5	Chua, Lina R.	8	Galan, Jorge A.	4	James, Brenda B.	8
Barraza, Ramon	6	Clayton, Steven A.	32	Gamboa, Jesse R.	26	Jesson, Douglas	1
Barrera, Ernie	5	Cockayne, Michael J.	31	Garcia, Leonor V.	18	Jesus, Candy M.	26
Barrios, Robert	1	Cole, Joy C.	8	Garcia, Maria L.	8	Jimenez, Marcelino S.	1
Beach, Michael	1	Comoda, Belinda A.	33	Garcia, Sandra	33	Jiminez, Cesar U.	1
Beam, William A.	12	Conner, Sharie Y.	8	Garza, Ricardo	55	Jiminez, Leticia C.	33
Beckwith, George R.	12	Cope, Mike A.	1	Garza, Samuel R.	1	Johnson, Desmond D.	8
Bedford, Marcus	31	Corbin, Zebbra	31	Gaytan, Irma	26	Johnson, Eric T.	12
Bell, John	1	Cordova, Francis L.	32	Gentle, Tia L.	33	Johnson, Paul K.	34
Bello, Armando	6	Corona, Soledad	8	Gentry, Dallas J.	1	Johnson, Sheila C	8
Bencoma, Armando X.	8	Cortez, Santiago D.	8	Gerolaga, Romeo R.	25	Jones, Kimberlee T.	8
Bencoma, Armando X.	8	Cosenza, Charles E.	12	Giatti, Richard J.	34	Jones, Tiara K.	8
Benitez, Augustus V.	32	Cosner, David	5	Gibson, Cynthia E.	8	Joseph, Louis M.	53
Benjamin, Jason C.	26	Cravatt, Jeremy	1	Gillins, Joshua S.	8	Joung, Un Yong	8
Berocal, Jose	1	Crew, George	8	Gillis, Laurence A.	34	Karner, Steven J.	8
Berocal, Jose D.	1	Curtis, David L.	50	Gomez, Betty A.	33	Kawada, Dale	31
Betsoi, Robert	8	Cwiakala, Robert W.	12	Gomez, Francisco X.	55	Kennedy, James E.	24
Betsoi, Robert	8	Czyznik, Jeffrey J.	17	Gonzalez, Gina M.	8	Kershner, Robert J.	18
Bizzell, Elva C.	8	Daligdig, Leticia M.	31	Gonzalez, Jesus	1	Khan, Farid	24
Black, Terrance A.	1	Daly, Donn S.	12	Gonzalez, Jesus B.	34	Khan, Huma	6
Blackshire, Bryan G.	50	Dang, Robert	31	Gonzalez, Roberto	31	Kiechler, Patricia T.	33
Blue, Ronnie	12	David, Elizabeth P.	33	Goodwin, Donald P.	4	Kim, Yang W.	1
Bonfiglio, Tania	34	Davila, Arturo	55	Gordon, Darryl S.	32	King, James E.	1
Braxton, Mark	12	Davis, Rhonda Y.	8	Graves, Mary E.	26	Kingston, Ian L.	26
Breatore, Michael A.	14	Davison, Raymond P.	26	Gray, Alison L.	55	Kirkland, Mark S.	1
Bremner, Matthew G.	13	Dease, Brian P.	1	Grosvenor, Steven H.	19B	Kissinger, Bernard E.	31
Brice, Jason A.	4	Deering, Chris	8	Grout, Daniel N.	1	Knight, Lewis	26
Brockman, James	1	DeGuzman, Connie C.	8	Guardiola, Abel	32	Knox, Russell G.	12
Brockman, William M.	1	DeLaCerde, Gerald	1	Guarente, Richard B.	10A	Kobashigawa, Roy	34
Brooks, Rhonda M.	26	Delgado, Valerie	8	Gutierrez, Eliseo	25	Kobayashi, Scott K.	1
Brown, Brian A.	1	Delsoin, Hans W.	8	Gutierrez, Martha Q.	8	Kobylarczyk, Daniel J.	32
Brown, Maurice	26	DeVito-Sullivan, Robert G.	1	Haile, Samson A.	31	Kong, Chang C.	55
Bulpitt, Steven D.	12	DeYoung, Don	19	Hall, Scott A.	64	Kubo, Linda M.	31
Burbano, Oswald B.	25	Dickerson, Robert T.	14	Hardy, Gary	26	La Farge, Paul	8
Burgen, Robert D.	15	Divins, Rosanna B.	26	Harrington, Mark D.	4	Lam, Hong T.	31
Bush, David J.	1	Dobson, Kelly M.	33	Harris, Anthony M.	50		

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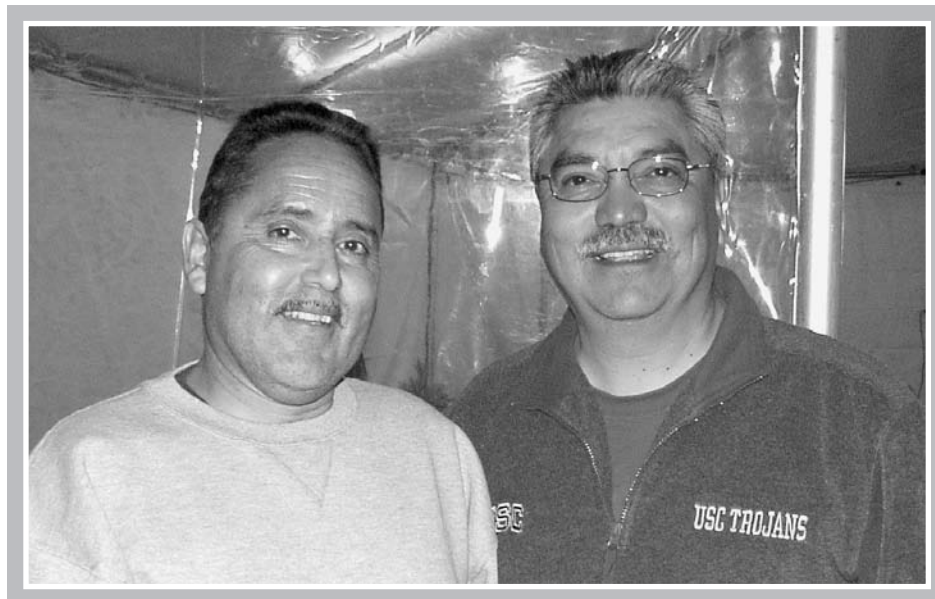
New Brothers and Sisters... *continued from page 4*

Lamb, Robin	1	Mota, Jesus	17	Rivas, Tiodoso S.	24	Tinoyan, Russell O.	1
Langbehn, Paul G.	63	Mota, Jose M.	13	Roberts, Adina D.	35	Tolentino, Maria A.	8
LaSalle, Christine	5	Mudrick, Gary L.	65	Roberts, Eric	1	Tong, Alice Y.	8
Lau, Norman H.	32	Munis, Valerie L.	8	Roberts, Jeffrey T.	19B	Topping, Virginia A.	8
Lavin, James B.	34	Munoz, Bertha	18	Rodriguez, Benjamin	1	Torres, Arthur	14
Lee, Thomas W.	31	Muro, Steven R.	17	Rogan, Donald	5	Torrez, Ralph	1
Legaspi, Leilani L.	8	Nagaoka, Ginger	8	Romero, Alan J.	1	Tovar, Grace	33
Lemestre, Michael A.	1	Nakkeow, Khanin P.	31	Roque, Miriam T.	35	Tovares, Christopher A.	1
Levy, John M.	31	Nassiri, Ashkan K.	31	Rosas, Edison	50	Toy, Robert C.	31
Lewis, Dimetris G.	18	Neal, David F.	31	Ross, Lisa A.	8	Tran, Hieo T.	8
Lindberg, Mary M.	12	Neal, Dennis M.	12	Rover-Jackson, Carolyn	33	Tran, Hiep T.	8
Ling, Mable W.	8	Nelson, Carl J.	8	Ruby, Corazon M.	8	Truefitt, William P.	1
Llamas, Raul	31	Nelson, Kirby K.	1	Ruiz, Roberto	34	Trujillo, T.	14
Lopez, Gonzalo	8	Newborn, Eva R.	18	Russo, John C.	1	Tucker, Stephan D.	34
Lopez, Hugo M.	1	Nguyen, Luan H.	31	Saenz, Richard	1	Twomey, Brian	1
Lopez, Javier	1	Nguyen, Minh D.	31	Salazar, Martin P.	19B	Tyler, Ryan A.	1
Lopez, Joseph A.	33	Nieto, Fidel	32	Sanchez, Efren	1	Ubavich, Nevenka	34
Lopez, Juan	33	Nik-Khah, Said	34	Sandoval, Carmelina	33	Ungson, Laura D.	33
Lorenzo, Maximino C.	32	Noverola, Robert	1	Saucedo, Alberto	31	Urrego, Nadia V.	26
Louie, Donald W.	34	Ochoa, James A.	1	Saylor, Richard	50	Valdez, Silvia M.	26
Loveland, Gregory A.	34	Oliva, Alex R.	53	Schadler, Rick L.	1	Valencia, Mark	1
Loya, Susan M.	31	Olivera, Manuel C.	1	Schaup, Ronald E.	52	Valentine, Robert A.	1
Luck, Elicia M.	31	Ordonia, Charles J.	12	Scherbenski, Jerome	18	Valenzuela, Ruby M.	8
Luck, Rodney A.	31	Orozco, Adam	5X	Schneider, Matthew S.	1	Valles, Alex R.	1
Luevano-Villa, Leonor G.	32	Ortiz, Rosa	8	Schrock, Katherine L.	8	Van Holton, Jason W.	1
Luna, Regina M.	8	Otey, Anwar	17	Schweiger, Herbert D.	31	Van Santen, Donald S.	34
Luna, Regina M.	8	Otoshi, John T.	31	Scott, Kimberly D.	8	Vanegas, Rolando E.	1
Lussier, Raymond A.	12	Owen, Daniel J.	50	Sears, Ronald, A.	12	Vasquez, Robert A.	1
Lussier, Raymond A.	12	Owens, Sandra V.	8	Senar, Reynante	1	Vazquez, Alisa G.	8
Macias, Brian A.	8	Page, Timothy T.	19B	Serratos, Sergio	8	Vela, Norma E.	8
MacInnis, Tor	25	Palacios, Francisco A.	19	Sesha Narayanan, Sunaja	31	Velasquez, Salvador J.	8
MacKenzie, Mark S.	50	Parra, Armando	32	Shepherd, Ronald J.	14	Viereck, Thomas P.	50
Madrid, Larry T.	19B	Pearce, John W.	12	Shoda, Lynn	8	Viereck, Thomas P.	50
Majdali, Wasim	1	Peer, Loren T.	19B	Shorter, Veronica R.	8	Villanueva, Jonathan	31
Mak, Billie	18	Penter, Richard S.	1	Silva, Anthony R.	64	Vincent, Tobias A.	14
Malpica Perez, Christian I	31	Perez, Jason M.	33	Smith, Darryl J.	12	Vizcaino, Adriana P.	26
Marroquin, Luis H.	4	Perez, Ramon	1	Smith, Glenn	35	Walters, Ron	1
Martin, Debra	33	Perez, Sarah E.	31	Smith, Sandra E.	33	Wang, Tunkung	32
Martin, Gregory W.	1	Phelps, Robin K.	8	Sobretudo, Roland C.	31	Warren, William J.	12
Martinez, Joanna R.	8	Phillips, Paul P.	1	Song, Su J.	33	Wasson, Terry R.	33
Martinez, Librada	31	Pietersz, Corinne	18	Sorrell, Scott L.	17	Webb, Amy	31
Martinez, Rachel M.	31	Plummer, Len R.	32	Sosa, Leonard	1	Webb, Carmen E.	55
McCaw, Brandon	1	Polson, Elma C.	8	Spacht, Julie M.	34	Weerasinghe, Moham P.	8
McMahon, John D.	34	Potts, Ernest	6	Stadler, Michael R.	1	Wei, Peter	31
McMorrow, Sean P.	32	Poulson, Mark	1	Stark, Kenneth R.	1	Wells, Darlene L.	8
Meeks, Phillip L.	4	Preciado, Ernie G.	53	Starkjohann, Greg J.	14	White, Kenneth J.	13
Mendez, Giovannie A.	14	Preciado, Frank M.	53	Starks, Kim D.	26	White, Timothy B.	32
Mendo, Yolanda C.	8	Provinse, Cynthia S.	31	Stevens, Leroy C.	1	Wiebe, Calvin D.	1
Messioneo, Frank A.	50	Pryor, John L.	8	Steverson, Dionandre	26	Wiley, Lendsy J.	50
Meyer, David S.	13	Pulido, Alejandro	1	Stewart, Andre D.	26	Williams, Chris M.	64
Meyer, June	8	Pushich, Edward J.	24	Stuckey, Robert R.	14	Williams, Conney D.	33
Minero, Joel S.	4	Quan, Charles S.	31	Su, Wilson F.	31	Williams, Ricardo E.	8
Mitchell, David L.	6	Radmacher, Jonathan D.	4	Summers, Matthew A.	34	Williams, William M.	31
Mitchell, Lorraine K.	33	Ramirez, Luis R.	1	Swagler, Marc W.	4	Wilson, Ahmad	15
Miyazaki, Bryan	6	Ramos, Annie	33	Sypert, Vincent T.	8	Wimberly, Erika D.	8
Moeller, Elaine D.	8	Ramos, Arceo J.	33	Tadesse, Zenaye A.	17	Wong, Bill N.	31
Monje, Luis A.	26	Rath, Sarang	1	Takeuchi, Troy	13	Wright, Sharon R.	8
Monroe, Schiry G.	32	Reagan, Charles J.	1	Tan, Vina Maria L.	8	Wu, Jin	31
Montalvo-Jiminez, C.	8	Reed, Darren E.	8	Tang, Pauline W.	33	Yanez, John P.	12
Montiel, Celina C.	18	Reeves, James F.	1	Tatsumi, Byron H.	13	Yapp, Kim M.	31
Montoya, Juan	1	Reid, Jeffrey M.	1	Taylor, David M.	19B	Ybarra, Joseph C.	17
Moore, Jennifer G.	8	Reola, Redante P.	32	Taylor, Todd R.	1	Yim, Justin H.	32
Moosebrugger, Earl D.	31	Requena, Florita M.	8	Tesseneer, John G.	8	Yiu, Elkie S.	33
Mora, Estevan	32	Reviglio, Ryan A.	63	Thomas, Donald F.	1	Yoxsimer, Chris M.	33
Mora, Frank J.	6	Reyes, Jerry	1	Thomas, Kathy S.	18	Yu, Jennifer	8
Morabbi, Ali	34	Reyes, Samuel J.	1	Thompson, Beverly A.	8	Zendejas, Javier C.	1
Morales, Edmundo R.	32	Reynard, Bryce A.	1	Thompson, Ernestine	8	Zimmer, Martin	24
Morelos, Hector J.	25	Rhodes, Dean J.	1	Thompson, Frederick W.	25	Zordilla, George Q.	31
Morrison, Lisa T.	33	Ricardez, Holly C.	8	Thompson, Michael E.	24		
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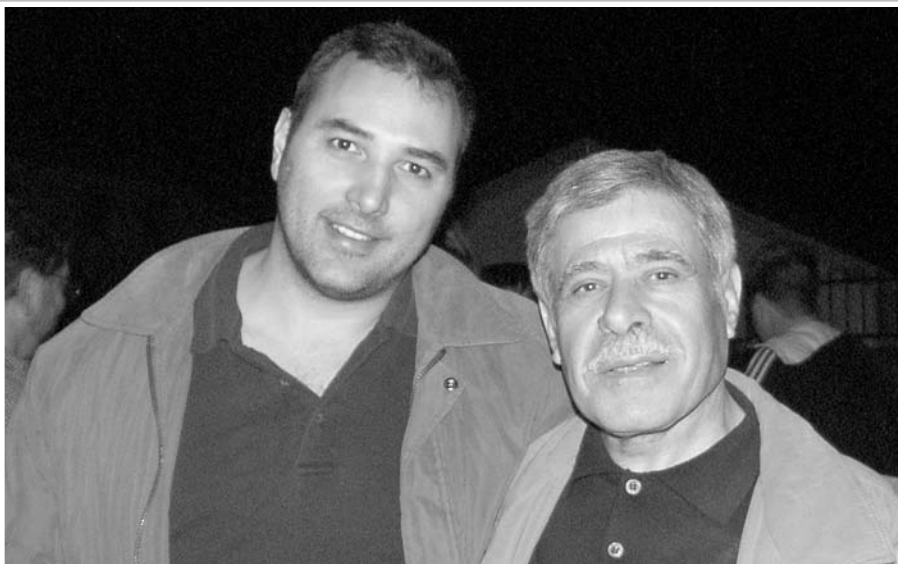
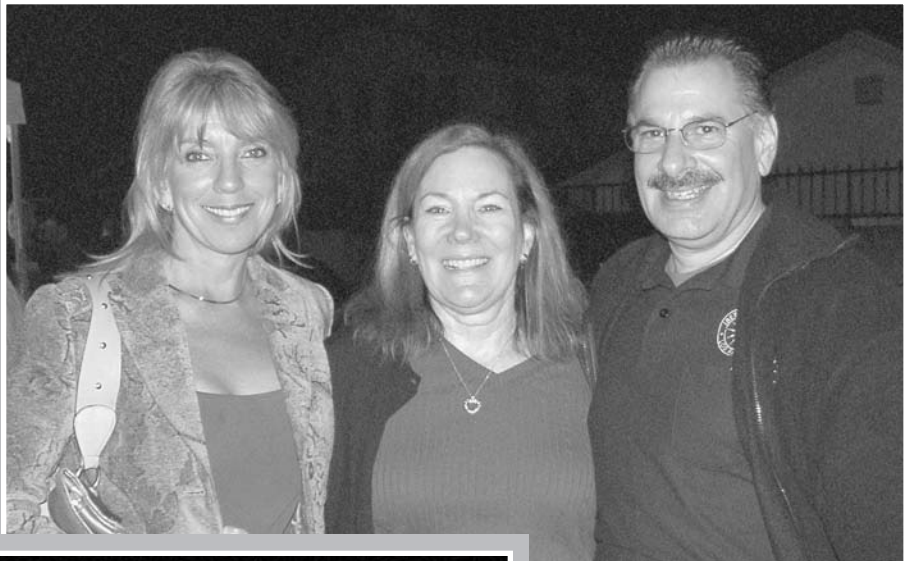
Good Food, Company and Chee



er at Our Annual Holiday Party



Annual Holiday Party... *continued*



From the Trenches: Reports from your Business Reps

Unit 1 – Electric Distribution

By Barry Poole

◆ Brother John Saathoff attended his last unit meeting as an active member this month; he is retiring. Brother Saathoff has been an IBEW "A" card member for 42 years. He worked from the Congo, in Africa, to Alaska. The list of places where John worked is a full two pages long! Most recently, he worked at DWP on 230kV projects in underground transmission.

◆ At our Unit 1 meeting, John told some great stories about where he has been and what he has done. As usual, he made everyone laugh and think about the work we do and life in general. John, we have always enjoyed listening to your stories, and we wish you the best on your retirement. Stop by from time to time to keep us updated and tell us some more of your great stories!

Unit 4 – General Construction

By Martin Marrufo

◆ Not all business units fill vacancies in the same way. If you are interested in a move to another section within the Department, keep in mind that you may need to take the civil service exam for your classification in order to receive a cert for that position.

◆ In order to accommodate members who have Mondays as an ASDO, a change of location or day of the week for our meetings has been requested. There will be recommendations and a vote for those changes at our next scheduled meeting. Keep in mind that this change has been requested in order to allow some members to attend our meetings after a regularly scheduled work day.

◆ Take the time to request a review of your personnel file. There have been occasions where unwanted and expired documentation has been kept in files *well beyond the recommended time period*.

◆ *Stand up Brothers.* Utilize your

stewards and familiarize yourself with your MOU!

Unit 15/20 – Pasadena

By Barry Poole

◆ Negotiations over the 2.5 @ 55 enhanced retirements have been very difficult. On January 11, 2006, the Coalition and the City essentially came to an impasse. In order to reach a settlement, it was suggested that the services of a state mediator be used. State Mediator Tony Butka was agreed upon by both the Coalition and the City. We are working with the City Manager Cynthia Kurtz to try to convince the City Council to continue to move forward with the mediator's help. She went to the Council on January 23 to promote this idea and keep moving forward.

◆ These negotiations have been very tough. I encourage the membership to be prepared, if necessary, to take action. Unit members will be updated at our meetings, which are held at 4:15 p.m., on the *first Thursday* of the month. As always, if action needs to be taken *between* meetings, we will contact you directly.

Unit 17 – Field Groups

By Nancy Romero

◆ As the new year begins, I want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all of the Unit 17 Shop Stewards and members for their efforts in moving our unit forward in the Joint Labor Management Committees, grievance meetings, Workers Safety Group Committees/Tours, and at the Monthly Safety Meetings.

◆ This year, I especially want to thank the members of the Field Groups Worker Safety Tour Committees, who collectively conducted a good number of tours this year in the Field and in the Field Group Offices.

◆ I look forward to once again working with all of you in 2006!

Unit 19B – CR&FS

By Martin Marrufo

◆ Basically, we all want the same

things in our work: decent pay for a day's work; benefits that provide a safety net looking towards the future, and are there for us in the event of an unforeseen accident or illness; safe and comfortable working conditions and, importantly, career opportunities.

◆ Thanks to the efforts and sacrifices of our predecessors, as well as the current leadership at Local 18, we have most of what we require for a successful career. Wages and benefits are very clear cut and are listed in our MOU's, as well as some DWP documents. We should all appreciate our position.

◆ Sometimes you have to make your own opportunity. Our own attitudes have a great impact on working conditions, as well as opportunity. We must be willing to change if we want things to improve. We cannot continue to do the same things we have done and expect things to get better. Only by acting differently and innovatively, can we achieve new and better results. Above all, keep increasing your skills and education!

◆ Good working conditions can be hard to define and not so easy to attain. I seem to spend most of my time dealing with this issue. We all have our own views on what good working conditions are and how they can be attained. *Just having those viewpoints will not change anything.* We must consider the best course and act on it. But we must respect other viewpoints as well, especially when we take action.

◆ *Appreciate your position. Educate yourself. Take action.*

Unit 25 – Landscape

By Nancy Romero

◆ Congratulations to Brothers Mike Bancale and Dave Hunt on their election as Chair and Vice-Chair of Unit 25, respectively, at our November unit meeting. No one ran for the position of Recording Secretary at that time.

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◆ *Reminder:* We are *not* approving any more contracts for the Landscape Section. Please work safely and within the duties and responsibilities described in your DDRs and work schedules!

◆ I look forward to working with your newly elected leadership. All of you are once again encouraged to attend the unit meetings. Please check the meeting schedule for the locations. All unit meetings begin at 4:00 p.m.

Unit 26 – Custodial

By Nancy Romero

◆ I want to thank all of you for the understanding and patience that you showed during this past year, as we struggled to resolve the many issues that we had to face. This was a challenging year for all of us, but we have to understand that we must work cooperatively, learn more about our rights, and remain strong together.

◆ Department management has made several changes to the organization of our unit. We *cannot* allow these changes to become obstacles to unity. While decisions have to be made, the undeniable intent of our unit's leadership has focused on keeping all Custodial Services Attendants' interests in the forefront, and doing right by everyone. We have had multiple discussions at the unit meetings about these issues, and I encourage more of you to attend and participate.

◆ As a follow up to the last update in the *Surge*, I contacted the Department's Employee Relations Office concerning the removal of emergency employees from the existing AOTLs. It was our hope that we could resolve this issue in an informal and timely manner. Instead, a grievance was filed.

◆ Please note that the titles of Custodial Services Attendant and Senior Custodial Services Attendant have been changed by the City Personnel Office to Custodian and Se-

nior Custodian, respectively. This was only a change in the classification title, *not* the duties, responsibilities or pay of the (former) Custodial Services Attendants.

Unit 31 – Professional

By Leslie Abbott

◆ Historically, the Department had provided tours of major facilities to newly hired engineers in order to familiarize them with the DWP system. Jeu Foon, Supervisor of Street Light Engineering and a member of the Supervisory Professional Unit, took the initiative to resurrect the program in a series of mini-tours this fall. At the JFB Tour, topics included the architecture/photovoltaic and water systems, drafting technologies, power distribution hardware, and the recent 230 kV UG cable-failure repair. During the Main Street Tour, participants viewed the Chemistry Lab, rubber-goods testing, infrared testing/ tensile testing/ concrete testing, and the Mechanical/Structural/Electrical/Paint Shops. The final tour included ECC and Power Plant 1.

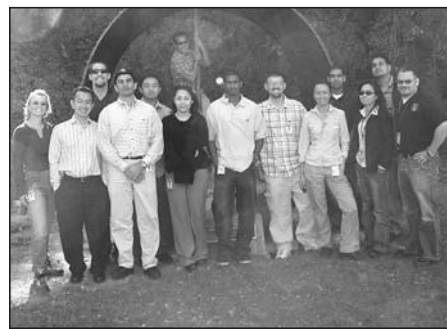


Photo by Jeu Foon

From left to right: Leslie Abbott, John Yu, Vincent Zabukovec, Aditya Sharma, William Zhang, Sabi Valdez, Marlon Santa Cruz (on pole), Rajan Monteiro, Brandon England, Tina Lam, Kishan Kasondra, Jacquelyn Ho, Charles Shenouda, Kerry McCorkle.

Unit 32 – Technical

By Kerry McCorkle

◆ I recognize Brothers Paul Locher, Robert Estrada, Norman Lim,

Ruben Najera, Luis Partida, and John Lockett, all of whom worked at the Local 18 phone bank. Kudos also to Robert Estrada, Norm Lim and Gerardo Pallones, who walked precincts in our Get-Out-The-Vote effort. I thank every member and family who supported our Union and voted no on these bad initiatives.

◆ At the November 9 Technical Unit Meeting, we conducted an election for Unit Vice Chairperson in order to fill the vacancy created by the untimely death of Brother Ed Sosa. I am pleased to announce that Brother Robert Estrada was unanimously nominated and elected as our Vice Chairperson. Brother Estrada has been a very active Shop Steward from the beginning of the Technical Unit, and will do an exceptional job in this additional leadership role in the Technical Unit.

◆ Brother John Lockett has been appointed as a new Technical Unit Shop Steward. Brother Lockett now fills a dual role as Unit Chair and Shop Steward. He has done an exceptional job as the Unit Chair, and I look forward to working with him in his new capacity.

◆ The Technical Unit Bid Plan Committee has been formed. We will begin meeting with management at the earliest opportunity. Please make an effort to attend and participate in the monthly unit meetings. Any discussions regarding the bid plan negotiations will be conducted *only* at the regular monthly unit meeting.

◆ We have seen an increase in the number of employees being disciplined for inappropriate Department cell phone, Internet, and e-mail usage. These facilities are provided to you by the Department for *business purposes only*. Using them inappropriately can subject you to discipline, not only for violating those policies, but for also for "using City time, property, or equipment without authorization". Please do *not* risk

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facing discipline for violating these policies! Offenders are being heavily disciplined.

◆ If you would like periodic e-mail updates sent to your home, please contact me with your home e-mail address.

◆ The Technical Unit Meeting is held at 5:00, on the *second Wednesday* of every month, at the Union Hall.

Unit 34 – Supervisory Professional

By Kerry McCorckle

◆ We have had some discussion at recent unit meetings about complaints regarding inconsistencies in the process utilized in filling Supervisor vacancies. I need to hear from you regarding your experiences with the filling of vacancies, and your concerns with the process. We will continue to discuss this issue until a decision is made on how to address and resolve this matter.

◆ We have seen an increase in the number of employees being disciplined for inappropriate Department cell phone, Internet, and E-mail usage. These facilities are provided to you by the Department for *business purposes only*. Using them inappropriately can subject you to discipline, not only for violating those policies but for also for “using City time, property, or equipment without authorization”. Please do *not* risk facing discipline for violating these policies! Offenders are being heavily disciplined.

◆ Please contact me if you would like to provide your home e-mail, so I may send you periodic updates.

◆ The Supervisory Professional Unit meets at 5:30 p.m., on the *first Tuesday* of every month, at the Union Hall.

Unit 50 – Burbank

By Barry Poole

◆ In Burbank Water and Power negotiations, so much has occurred

during the last few months, it is difficult to separate out all the highlights.

◆ You filled the City Council chambers and Unit Meetings whenever a special meeting was called. You stood together 100 percent when the time came to let the City of Burbank know exactly what you wanted; this is truly the highlight of these negotiations! It is the realization of your potential: that *your* unity, courage, and trust in your leadership are what wins the fight!

◆ The City was unwilling to budge in its belief that a defined-benefit retirement contribution should not be offered, but your actions changed things. **We have come to an agreement! It includes increases in salary and medical benefits but, most important to you, is the 2.5% @ 55 retirement enhancement. Final approval from Burbank City Council came on January 17!**

◆ The Council approved a three-year contract. It included the 2.5% @ 55 enhanced retirements, medical payments that will increase for many by \$300 per month, 100%-paid dental and vision coverage, a very good wage increase, an additional retiree medical subsidy, and more.

◆ Early retirement options are being offered to 10 of the most senior

unit members, who would be least likely to take advantage of the enhanced-retirement benefit.

◆ I especially thank negotiating-team members Bruce Redmann, Chris Besvold, Barry Heller, Elliott Azus, Sergio Carrasco, Jeff Hancock, Chuck Malys, Lonnie Maybin, and Russ Riegler. Your thoughts, ideas and leadership were invaluable.

◆ But in the end, it was every member, officer and representative's unity, courage and trust that won the day. *Do not ever forget or lose site of these very vital and fundamental union ideals.*

Unit 52 – Owens Valley

By Ken Delgado

◆ Thanks to everyone who participated in and helped make a success of our very enjoyable Christmas Dinner. (See picture below). I especially thank Winter Kennedy and Bruce Zigtima for taking the lead in setting up a very nice party.

◆ I look forward to all the changes that will affect us at our jobs this new year. I will be up to see you in February. Our next unit meeting will be held on *Wednesday, the 22nd*, in Big Pine. I look forward to seeing all of you at that time!

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Unit 55 – Communications

By Nancy Romero

◆ I thank all of you who regularly attend our monthly unit meetings.

◆ I also want to thank the members of the Worker Safety Tour Group. All scheduled safety tours were completed. I want to thank the members for welcoming the tour group when it came to your work locations. These tours helped successfully resolve many safety issues.

◆ We are still in the process of selecting the best candidate to fill the Training Coordinator position for Telecomm.

◆ We had a good year working together on a variety of issues. I once again look forward to working with all of you this year!

◆ The Telecomm Joint Labor-Management Committee meetings

are held on the *second Thursday* of the month. Please submit any recommendations to one of the committee members.

Unit 63 – Underground Construction

By Barry Poole

The Underground Construction Joint Labor-Management Committee met on December 14, 2005. We discussed several work-related issues. Labor members of the committee are: Chuck Adams, Jesus Aguirre, Larry Lomeli, Ron Lona, Dave Wilson, Walter Takamura, and Barry Poole. Our next meeting is scheduled for *February 15, 2006*. If you have any questions or suggestions, please direct them to one of these members or discuss them at the monthly unit meeting.

In Memoriam

Death of Members Report Dec. 22, 2005

“A” MEMBER

Richard R. Park, retired Electrical Mechanic Foreman, initiated 11/1/54 by Local 18. *Passed away 11/25/05.*

“BA” MEMBERS

Thomas G. Bolitho, Sr. HD Mechanic, initiated 7/1/91 by Local 18. *Passed away 12/3/05.*

Paul DeArmon, HD Truck Operator, initiated 5/1/86 by Local 18. *Passed away 11/14/05.*

Daniel Wiedlund, Jr. Lineman/Splicer, initiated 1/1/93 by Local 18. *Passed away 11/20/05.*

Joe Wohland, Welder, initiated 2/1/83 by Local 18. *Passed away 11/29/05.*

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