



# SURGE

October 2006 • Published for the members of IBEW Local 18 and their families

## BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

### THE 37TH ANNUAL IBEW CONVENTION

## Over 2,000 Delegates Hear Rousing Speeches, Elect Officers, Debate Laws and Resolutions



By Brian D'Arcy  
Business Manager, Local 18

The recent 37th Annual IBEW Convention, in Cleveland, was highlighted by several exciting speeches and decisions on a slew of internal union matters, most importantly Constitutional changes and resolutions. I am pleased to report that I served on our Laws Committee, and that our deliberations produced a number of significant changes (please see below).

Reviewing, in chronological order, the proceedings of the four-day gathering, at which 2,138 delegates, represented 763 local unions and just under 700,000 IBEW brothers and sisters across the U.S. and Canada:

IBEW International President Edwin

Hill, acknowledging his *unanimous* re-election to a new five-year term, noted that members should "always know that you can lean on me. I'm your union brother, Ed." In his keynote address, Brother Hill pledged that IBEW has "rediscovered the courage to confront the truth," concerning declining membership and the challenge of new organizing strategies.

"We do not want to supplant local organizing, but identify winnable targets—of which there are *thousands*—and go after them in a coherent, well-planned manner." He added something we at Local 18 know very well: *organizing goes hand in hand with the need to mobilize politically.*

---

### SENATOR HARKIN TELLS IT LIKE IT IS

---

In a fiery speech, U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), a strong friend of working families, said, "We believe in giving hope to *all* Americans and not just the privileged few." Accusing the Republicans of "providing favors for the ultraconservatives and tax

*continued on page 2*





breaks for the rich," Harkin declared that "health-care premiums for [most people] have increased 70% and college tuition is up by 57%." He praised unionized employees, noting that "Americans are working harder and longer, and are more productive than ever, *and they are getting nowhere* [economically]."

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney reported that IBEW, along with the federation, contributed over \$1 billion in food, clothing, shelter and rebuilding commitments to Hurricane Katrina victims, while government officials were paralyzed with indecision and ineffectiveness.

CNN Anchor Lou Dobbs, accepting the first "IBEW Voice of Working America Award," blasted the elitist, corporate and free-trade-at-any-price advocates who are *not* "We the People. He noted real earnings for working Americans have been stagnant and manufacturing wages have *declined*. Dobbs said the *real* issues are a \$5 trillion trade deficit and 48 million uninsured Americans!

---

### **ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE!**

---

Delegates overwhelmingly endorsed an aggressive growth strategy for the IBEW, approving a \$1/month/member dues increase on January 1, 2007, with similar hikes on January 1, 2009 and 2011. The ambitious organizing program divides North America into six industrial sectors and creates multi-industry organizing councils staffed by veteran, skilled organizers.

Delegates ratified the election of IBEW International Vice Presidents; our IVP continues to be Michael Mowrey.

Our laws Committee was very busy, strengthening and expanding IBEW's Constitution. We worked on a variety of internal issues, including:

- Nomination of delegates to *other* labor conventions
- Changes in the reimbursement system for convention delegates
  - Trustee responsibilities
  - U.S. and Canadian pension equity matters
  - Traveling cards (for members who move from local to local)
  - Local union assessment provisions
  - Local union reporting of injuries, illness and fatalities
  - Specifications for Organizer positions
  - Raising Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) contributions over three years
  - *Separate* listings of per capita taxes to the General Fund and payments by "A" members into the PBF



- Barring an apprentice from holding a local union office, unless he/she entered a program to upgrade skills

- Several railroad-electrician issues

Delegates approved over a dozen resolutions, covering a wide range of union and social topics. Brother Marvin Kropke, of Local 11, ably served on our Resolutions Committee.

The 37th Convention was highlighted by progress, fellowship and a re-commitment to the goals and agenda of the national IBEW and the members and families it represents.

*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](http://www.ss.ca.gov).

# From the Trenches: Reports from your Business Reps

## Unit 1 – Electrical Distribution

By Barry Poole

◆ The 2006 International Line-man's Rodeo was held in Kansas City on October 7. More than 3,000 electric-utility personnel from across the United States and around the world competed in this event. They demonstrated the skills they use every day in a very dangerous and difficult profession.

Competitors are judged on speed, safety, and proficiency in many different tasks. Among others, they include how fast they can climb a pole with an egg in their mouth, rescue of another line worker from off the top of a pole, and changing out cross arms while circuits are energized.

I am pleased to announce that the team of Sean Nicklaw, Graham Peace, and Dave Schneider took 1st place overall in the Municipal Utility category!

Ben Rodriguez, Troy Couch and Scott Osborn also competed, and did an excellent job. They finished fourth overall in the Municipal Utility category.

Robert Lowrey, an apprentice, took third place in the Municipal Utility category.

Considering the number of competitors, these finishes are an amazing achievement. I tip my hat to all these men on their remarkable feats.

Thanks to everyone who competed, and all those who helped load and transport equipment, and lend support all along the way for our team members. Congratulations to all of you and keep up the great work!

## Unit 2 – Electric Station Operators

By Bill Lewis

◆ Know your rights! The De-

partment has taken to sending Operators to Medical for "fitness evaluation", after they have been involved in a switching error. The Department has told Local 18 that this evaluation is designed to make sure there are no injuries. However, as we investigate further, we have found that under the auspices of a "fitness evaluation," *there lies a drug and alcohol test.* If you are taken to Medical after a switching error or automotive accident, ask your supervisor to allow you to contact the Union. *You have a right to representation during the medical "fitness evaluation."*

## Unit 3 – Testers

By Bill Lewis

◆ I have enjoyed representing you over the past few years. One of our major accomplishments was developing a bona-fide training program. The Department has yet to approve the program, but it has the making of a *first-rate* apprenticeship. I am confident that the Department's top management will see the merits and soon approve the program. New Business Rep Leslie Abbott will continue to follow developments here, and assure that your interests are addressed.

## Unit 4 – General Construction

By Martin Marrufo

◆ With the increase in out-of-town work scheduled for the next year or so, we have to be aware of current circumstances. The General Construction Joint Labor-Management Committee (JLMC) put together an out-of-town policy in May, 2005. Although the JLMC agreed to this policy, it was *not* reviewed by either the Business Manager of IBEW Local 18 or the DWP General Manager. According to the

JLMC Charter, no agreement is final until *both* of these individuals accept the recommendations.

◆ There have been some questions about a morning-stretch routine practiced at General Construction. The morning stretch is *voluntary*, and there should be *no* punitive actions taken if a member decides not to stretch. Local 18, along with the Joint Safety Institute, support the morning stretch. Those of you that have seen me on-site at beginning of shift know that I participate in, and support the program. There has been a reduction of injuries and accidents in the morning hours at General Construction. Some may think that this is a coincidence, but I feel it is directly related to the morning stretch.

◆ There seems to be a steady increase of micro-managing in our section. Supervisors are being given marching orders that must be followed, or they will be disciplined. When a supervisor cannot run his crew in his normal way, there often are morale issues that follow. I ask you to follow your supervisors' instruction—as long as they do not result in unsafe acts. If you feel that there is a violation of the MOU, please contact a Shop Steward or Local 18 immediately. Remember: you have 14 days from date of incident, or knowledge of incident, to file a grievance. Also remember that most of your supervisors are Union brothers who are following instructions.

## Unit 6 – Stores & Warehouse

By Shawn McCloud

◆ Our unit meetings are held every *second Thursday* of the month, alternating between Van Nuys store and Temple Street (CS-

*continued on page 5*

BU) building, in the 2nd floor conference room. We discuss workplace issues and talk about ways to resolve them. We also train at our unit meetings on MOU and Administrative Policy and Procedures, just to name a few. Join us and get armed with knowledge!

◆ Our MM&L Joint Labor Management Committee is working on several issues, including Assistant Utility Buyer and Procurement Aid exams, training issues such as purchasing/ procurement practices & blanket-authority classes, facilities and materials upkeep, warehouse ergonomic prototypes, emergency evacuations plans, and warehouse safety tours. The committee meets monthly, and if you have any questions or comments you want addressed at its meeting, please contact me at 213/387-8274, ext. 111. You also may contact any of these committee members:

Joe Augino	John Miller
Joe De La Cerda	Elliot Oliver
Debra King	Jan Deichen
Arnie Netka	Ben Jimenez
(Co-Chair)	Mark Miller
Steve Bassett	(Co-Chair)
Val Fernandez	Gary West

◆ I thank all of the committee members who are working together to improving working conditions in the Material Management and Logistics organizations.

◆ ***Safety in the workplace should be a number-one priority!*** If you are interested in becoming a Worker Safety Tour member, please call me. Training will be provided.

### Unit 8 – Clerical

By GERALYN WASHINGTON-TATUM

◆ Now that it is getting dark earlier, please ask for a security escort when walking to your car at night. Always be aware of your surroundings, and report anything that looks suspicious.

◆ **Reminder:** Department e-mail is just that: Department e-mail. *Do not use it for personal messages!* I cannot stress the importance of this: employees are being disciplined. Before you tell that joke, show that picture, or discuss where you had lunch, ask yourself this: *is it worth the loss of a day's pay?* Remember, racist, sexist and gender-specific items are not the only inappropriate e-mail contents!

### Unit 8/18 – Supervisory Clerical and Administrative

By GERALYN WASHINGTON-TATUM

◆ In the last *Surge*, I reported that the Civil Service Commission had agreed to adopt the recommendation made by Personnel Manager Margaret Whelan to modify the eligibility requirements for the Management Analyst examination. *This is not entirely correct*. The recommendation has been made, *but not yet adopted*. I apologize for any confusion this may have caused. As I get information, I will pass it on to you.

◆ Our last scheduled unit meeting was abruptly cancelled. Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 29; it will be a dinner meeting. If you have any suggestions for a location in between the metropolitan and valley areas, please give me a call.

### The Districts

By SHAWN MCCLOUD

◆ Since my last article, I have made site visits at Fleet-Saticoy yard, Van Nuys District, Valley Service Planning, East Valley Water, Fleet-Temple Street and Lincoln Heights. I have also visited other locations in order to deal with workplace issues.

◆ If you work outside of JFB, and not in the Customer Services Business Unit Organization, I am your Business Representative. I am avail-

able to have a lunch meeting at your location; please call me to set up an appointment.

◆ Since you are in the Districts, it is important to know the emergency evacuation plan at your work location. Ask your supervisor to give you the plan in writing, and become familiar with the route. If you are unable to obtain evacuation information, speak with your Shop Steward, and he or she will assist you in obtaining evacuation information. ***Safety in the workplace should be a number-one priority!*** If you are interested in becoming a Worker Safety Tour member, please call me at 213/387-8274, ext. 111. Training will be provided.

◆ Congratulations to all the members who have taken promotional examinations!

◆ Remember, at our Clerical Unit meeting, we provide training on various topics. *You are the Union!* Please come to the meetings and get informed.

### VOC

By LILLY CALVACHE

◆ The Joint Labor-Management Committee (JLMC) continues to work on Guidelines for Overtime Assignments, Call-Out Policy and Staffing issues. We will put out a policy as soon as JLMC approves the recommendations. The committee has also been addressing Handling Emergency Situations. By now, you should know how to evacuate your worksite in case of an emergency. If you still have questions about this, please ask any of your JLMC members. I know that there are many changes taking place in the Department that have to be made clear to VOC so that you can perform your duties. If you have any questions about this, please call me and I will get answers.

continued on page 6

## Unit 14 - Transportation

By Bill Lewis

◆ In the five or so years I have represented your unit, we have accomplished a lot together. Contracting-out was reduced, more than 50 employees have been added, work that had been taken away has been returned, the AOTL has been adhered to (a few problems exist, but many fewer than in the past). Your new Business Rep., Martin Marrufo, will continue to fight for your work and rights, and ensure that your supervisors follow the provisions of the MOU.

## Unit 15/20 – Pasadena

By Barry Poole

◆ Your Negotiations Committee continues to meet with representatives from the city. City representatives met with the Council in closed session on October 16. There are still a number of issues that need more work, but we continue to make progress.

◆ IBEW Local 18 Business Representative Bill Lewis, who used to work for Water and Power in Pasadena, has joined the committee as an advisor, and has been a great help in these negotiations.

◆ Please continue to talk with your Negotiating Committee members, read these *Surge* articles and attend your unit meetings in order to keep updated on breaking news about negotiations and other issues.

## Unit 17 – Field Groups

By Nancy Romero

◆ I thank every member who joined us for the Dinner Meeting on September 7. We had a great meeting and a shared a very pleasant summer afternoon. Unit leaders were encouraged by the large turnout at the dinner, and also your involvement in discussing important issues.

◆ Unit Chairperson Cindy Coffin

encourages all members to join us at our monthly meetings that take place at 6:30 p.m., on the *first Thursday*, at the Union Hall. Please don't turn out *just* for the dinner. Throughout the year, there are always plenty of items to discuss and resolve. I urge you to participate! We need your input to ensure the best decisions on behalf of the entire unit!

◆ Some issues are easily resolved in one meeting, but others take more time. We have had success in improving our working conditions. If you just cannot attend our meetings, please read the posted Joint Labor-Management minutes for your respective units and keep yourself informed about issues that concern you. We do our best to summarize key issues in the *Surge*, but please contact your Shop Steward or Business Rep if you have questions or are unclear about the impact of these matters at work. We work to improve communications; if you have a question, ask your Shop Steward, a labor member of your respective JLM, or call me. Stay informed and involved!

Here is an update on previous and new items of discussion:

### Commercial Field Representatives:

◆ We have recently learned that management has been given conflicting information regarding which steps are necessary for the Commercial Field Representatives in Metro to be reimbursed for parking. We have been trying to resolve this issue for a long time now, and we are getting closer to a solution once and for all.

◆ Future handhelds for the CFRs: so far, three top-of-the-line handhelds were reviewed by the workgroup. They include two rugged handheld devices provided by Panasonic (CF 29 and CF 18), and the new XR1 from ITRONIX.

Work group members were able to listen to presentations by both companies, and also view the new screens outdoors. There appears to be a *significant* improvement in the quality of the screens. We will have to wait until these devices are loaded with our software; only then can we evaluate whether the new device actually improves our ability to read the screens outdoors.

◆ Panasonic released its latest version of a rugged device at the beginning of October. We hope that our workgroup will be able to evaluate the new CF 30s, as well.

◆ I have discovered that some of you are having transmission problems with the Department trucks. I encourage all of you to report any trouble that you may have with the trucks to your supervisor. I am concerned that members are not reporting these problems because they don't want to lose their truck for an extended period of time while it gets repaired.

Some trucks need minor repairs. Please do not hesitate to report any work that is needed on the vehicles, regardless of how insignificant it may appear to you. I encourage you to work safely; assuring that your vehicle is in good working order is part of your responsibility to that goal. I thank the members who raised this concern—specifically about the transmission problems with the 2004 Ford Rangers. They brought the problem to light, and we worked with management to resolve it.

### Field Investigations

◆ All desktops computers will be replaced with the rugged laptops. This replacement is not related to the implementation of MDDS. I have learned that many of the computers are crashing, and must be replaced.

◆ I am still trying to work out details of how we are going to con-

*continued on page 7*

tinue to implement the Worker Safety Tours in the Field Investigations Unit. I look forward to getting some creative ideas from members, who will take tours to the next level. We have been very successful in the last couple of years, and we want to keep our momentum going. I will speak about this issue soon; stay tuned for more information about this topic.

### Unit 19B – Shops

By Martin Marrufo

◆ There have been some major discrepancies in the AOTL. I have been discussing them with management and your Shop Stewards. If you know that your AOTL is not correct, please put your issues in writing and submit them to your Shop Stewards or e-mail them at mmarrufo@ibewlocal18.com.

◆ The Electrical Repairer Trainee program has not proceeded as quickly as we all had hoped. There are currently two ERs who have been temporarily appointed as Electrical Repairer Supervisors. This results in two vacant Electrical Repairer positions. I have approached management on this issue, and have been assured that it supports Electrical Craft Helpers being given the opportunity to be given emergency or limited appointments as Electrical Repairers.

### Unit 22 – Electric Service Reps

By Bill Lewis

◆ A tangled web has been spun. The “Petti” grievance that grew into the “Firestone” grievance has now mutated into a Local 18, *et al*, grievance. It was filed against the Department over its failure to approve the agreed-upon settlement of the Firestone grievance. The Department has violated the essence of our contract, the grievance process itself. I will continue to pursue this matter, even though Shawn Mc-

Cloud is now your Business Rep. I will work with her in order to keep all of you informed on any progress.

### Unit 24 – Water Supply

By Ken Delgado

◆ We have made some changes within the unit: Water Works Mechanics are in the Water Quality Section, along with Regulator-Section members who came over from Water Distribution some years ago. The issues that affect members in these sections are similar because you are all in the *same business unit*. Therefore, members from both of these sections will now attend the *same Unit 24 meetings*. I hope to see you all come together as one unit at future meetings. United we stand, divided we fall.

### Unit 25 – Landscape

By Nancy Romero

◆ I have learned that FMBC Manager Al Sosa intends to eliminate the 9/80 work schedules for all of the Landscape section. Management will try to implement this decision, but it will have to follow the prescribed procedures of the OM&S MOU. To date, it has not.

I assure you that we will work *together* if management moves forward on this issue. *Please stay informed about this issue*; it is important that we receive input from everyone, if and when there is any movement on this item. For now, we have only been given a *verbal* confirmation of this intent. For updates on this issue, please contact your Shop Stewards or call me. I thank all of you who called and shared their concerns about this issue.

◆ There are concerns over reduction of overtime throughout the entire Landscape section. This reduction was imposed by the Board of Water Commissioners, *not* by Mr. Sosa or Acting Business Unit Direc-

tor, Gary Wong. The Commissioners’ discussions and final directive to DWP was to have all employees’ overtime be reduced to 10% in this fiscal year. The aim is to severely reduce the cost of overtime. In order to assure compliance with their directive, they have directed DWP to prepare a quarterly Overtime Analysis for their review.

*Reminder:* Under Appendix B of the OM&S MOU, management’s only contractual obligation to you is it offers you 10% overtime, as long as there are landscape contractors on the premises. This reduction to 10% would comply with the MOU and, therefore, *not* be grievable.

◆ *The test for the Senior Gardeners:* The City Personnel Office erroneously and prematurely sent a letter to all of you who did not pass the written portion of the exam. This letter caused confusion because you were sent a score that was not “whole”; instead, it was a score with decimals. It was even murkier when personnel then sent a letter telling you to disregard the *first* letter, and then it conducted interviews with those employees who *did* pass the written portion of the exam.

Proper procedure is—the written exam is given, members who pass get a letter letting them know about the details of their interview. Those that did *not* pass the written portion of the test are sent a *generic* letter advising of this. The Personnel Office then conducts the interviews. Once they are completed, a letter is sent to all the employees who took the test, giving their exact ranking. The office uses the regular rules for rounding the scores to provide everyone with a whole score.

These final letters also indicate a protest period of *48 hours*, during which anyone who took the test can submit their concerns to the Personnel Office. I hope that this

continued on page 8

eases some concerns about this process.

### Unit 26 – Custodians

By Nancy Romero

◆ Attention all members: I am disappointed to find out that while FMBG Management submitted a request to fill 20 emergency custodial positions, only 10 were approved. I urge you to continue to work safely. Do the best you can, work the overtime as you can. I hope management will one day realize that it has to *fully* staff our unit to the degree that is required. I ask you to perform to the best of your ability, and show that hiring permanent custodians is the best budgetary decision possible. This is the sole long-term solution to our on-going staffing problem in this unit. I do not understand why only *half* of the requested personnel was approved.

I ask you to continue to do your best with respect to covering the areas that are affected by this decision. In the meantime, *please report any other Department employee performing custodial work.* There are some classifications that may perform some of your duties, but please advise me if anyone is clearly working outside of the DDRs. Also, note that Senior Custodians can perform custodial duties, but a Custodial Supervisor *cannot*. Supervisors can perform custodial duties *only* while training a rank-and-file custodian. They are *not* supposed to pick up assignments and work them on their own. If a supervisor is performing clearly defined custodial duties while on regular assignment, or on overtime, *please let me know.* I have already met with all the supervisors, along with FMBG Management, to express this concern, and we all agree that Custodial Supervisors will *not* be allowed to perform outside of the DDRs.

While the decision not to hire

permanents has had a major impact on your ability to maintain all necessary facilities at high standards, we are not alone in this struggle. Sadly, this is a common problem throughout the Department.

### Unit 28 – Reprographics/ Print Shop

By Lilly Calvache

◆ The Joint Labor-Management Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis. We have begun to discuss staffing issues and the status of reports on contracts. The committee is working on new equipment and training issues.

◆ The Print Shop will get an iGEN Production Color Printer, which was approved by the Board on October. Equipment should be arriving by December, and training will soon be arranged.

◆ Reprographics will have a Quintex Machine, which creates microfiche cards for archives storage. The Quintex Machine has been approved, and delivery is expected shortly. The committee is working hard and making progress! Stay tuned for updates. If you have any questions, or need to speak to me, please contact me at 213/387-8274, ext. 140.

### Unit 31 – Professional

By Leslie Abbott

◆ Many PE licenses are issued in September and October; that means it is renewal time for many engineers. I may sound like a broken record, but a couple of you keep falling through the cracks here and there. *If an Engineering or Architectural Associate lets his/her license lapse, the Department will not pay the license premium during the lapsed period. That is 5.575625% off your paycheck.* So, again:

• Make sure that your current address is on file with the Department of Consumer Affairs, so that

you receive renewal notices. *The DCA does not allow the post office to forward its mail, so you will not get the renewal notices if you do not take care of this proactively.*

• When you renew your license, you must provide your Business Unit with documentation proving that you are current.

• Article 34.1 in the Professional Unit MOU governs the license premiums. MOUs are on line at <http://labrel.ladwp.com/>

• Engineers can check the status of their PEs at the California Department of Consumer Affairs website [www.dca.ca.gov/pels](http://www.dca.ca.gov/pels) Click on license look-up and enter your name. The license-expiration date should be listed. Print out a copy for your reference. DCA also provides you with wallet cards that you can reference.

• PE license renewals are now on a two-year cycle, not four. *On your toes!*

### Unit 33 – Administrative

By Shawn McCloud

◆ At our last meeting, we discussed the training that is needed for the management series. You shared your frustration over getting a new job, since no formal training is provided, nor is information given concerning the overall operations of your present section or division.

Many of you pointed out that the Department's failure to provide training has put you at a disadvantage compared to employees at other city departments. We will work together to address this issue.

◆ If you would like to have a lunch-time meeting at your work location in order to discuss jobsite issues, please contact me at 213/387-8274, ext. 111.

◆ In case of an emergency, do you where you should evacuate your work location? If not, request

*continued on page 9*

this information from your supervisor. If you cannot obtain the information, contact your Shop Steward or me for assistance. **Safety in the workplace should be a number-one priority!** If you are interested in becoming a Worker Safety Tour member, please call me. Training will be provided.

### Unit 35 – Supervisory Technical

◆ The experiment with unit meetings continues! *The day, time and location are changing.* Because of a conflict in my schedule, the Super Tech unit meeting will be on the *second* Wednesday of the month instead of the *third* Wednesday. Also, since the novelty of the close-to-JFB restaurants seems to have worn off, we are going to move the meetings to the JFB itself. And, finally, with the change to the JFB, we are going

to move the time up to 5:00 p.m. So, that is 5:00 p.m., on the *second Wednesday*, at JFB. See you then!

### Unit 53 – Water

By Ken Delgado

◆ I thank every member who attended your unit Dinner Meeting. Because of your participation, the event was a huge success. Our next meeting will be the Christmas Dinner, Thursday, December 7. Please be sure to call the Union Office (213/387-8274, ext. 0) to RSVP. Our next unit meeting is at the East Valley Water Yard. I look forward to seeing you there. United we stand, divided we fall.

### Unit 55 – Communications

By Nancy Romero

◆ I am happy to announce that we have formed a Shop Familiariza-

tion Work Group through the Telecomm Joint Labor Management Committee. The group was created to address a unit member's concern over wanting to become familiar with a different shop *before* bidding for it.

This matter was raised when members bid to a shop and then were surprised by some of the unexpected consequences of bidding there. Despite making the best attempt to learn about a shop before you bid, some things that you will simply *not* know or experience until you actually accept the bid and are working in the Shop. This group will determine what a member will experience at a new shop, the length of the familiarization for each shop, and many other details that have been raised from our initial discussion.

### Unit 63 – Underground Construction

By Ken Delgado

◆ Let me introduce myself: I am Ken Delgado, and I will be your new representative, replacing Brother Barry Poole, who worked so hard on your behalf. I was with Water Distribution for 17 years, and have been a Local 18 Business Rep for the past three years. My experience in pipe installation should be valuable when dealing with your issues—including tools, equipment and underground-construction safety. Although you are in the Power System, I think that when installing pipe of *any* kind underground, it is a similar point of view. I look forward to working closely and productively with all of you. I would like to see every member at our next unit meeting. I know that it falls right before Thanksgiving, but what better way is there to go into the holiday weekend than with a blowout meeting with your new Rep! United we stand, divided we fall.

## In Memoriam

### “A” MEMBERS

- Cleveland Miles, Jr., retired Equipment Mechanic, initiated 1/1/1956 in Local 18. *Passed away 7/2005.*
- Howard E. Crist, retired Electrical Mechanic, initiated 2/19/1941 in Local 18. *Passed away 7/28/2006.*
- Ernest F. Bodnar, retired Storekeeper, initiated 3/5/48 in Local 18. *Passed away 9/14/2006.*
- Howard J. Cooper, retired Journeyman Lineman, initiated 1/7/1941 in Local 295. *Passed away 9/17/2006.*
- Virgil J. Wilde, retired Wireman, initiated 7/2/1952 in Local 11. *Passed away 10/30/2004.*

### “BA” MEMBERS

- Phillip J. Buza, Gardener Caretaker, initiated 4/1/1984 in Local 18. *Passed away 6/27/2006.*
- Charles Leipold, Sr., retired Machinist and former Local 18 Business Manager, initiated 10/01/1974 in Local 18. *Passed away 7/30/2006.*
- David C. Weinstein, Warehouse & Toolroom worker, initiated 10/1/93 in Local 18. *Passed away 8/5/2006.*
- Joseph F. Fitzgerald, retired Welder, initiated 1/1/00 in Local 18. *Passed away October, 2006.*



**INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD  
OF ELECTRICAL  
WORKERS.**

900 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202.833.7000  
<http://www.ibew.org>

EDWIN D. HILL  
International President

JON F. WALTERS  
International  
Secretary-Treasurer

September 20, 2006

**TO: ALL FINANCIAL SECRETARIES**

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The delegates of the 37<sup>th</sup> IBEW International Convention, which was conducted in Cleveland, Ohio during the week of September 11 through 15, 2006, approved amendments to Article IX of the *IBEW Constitution*. Accordingly, effective January 1, 2007, there will be a per capita increase of one dollar (\$1.00) for all members, and there will be an increase of seventy cents (70¢) for the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) contribution, which applies to "A" members only. Accordingly, the following rates will apply to the I.O. portion of all monthly dues payments covering January 2007, and thereafter:

	<u>"A" Members</u>	<u>"BA" Members</u>	<u>"FP" – fee payers</u>
Per Capita:	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
Pension Fund:	<u>\$12.00</u>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Total:	\$23.00	\$11.00	\$11.00

In accordance with Article IX of the *IBEW Constitution*, \$11.00 per month from each member shall go into the General Fund, and the additional amount paid by our "A" members of \$12.00 per month shall go into the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund.

Please notify all of the members in your local union concerning these increases. In addition, you may also need to notify the employers to increase payroll deductions. Local unions submitting electronic per capita reports must make arrangements to update their software and/or use the most current version of the ICS-Windows or Labor Power software package to ensure that the new dues rates have been implemented. It will not be necessary to amend the local union bylaws with respect to this dues increase, because this action was approved at the IBEW International Convention.

The monthly per capita and PBF payments to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is a duty that is required of each individual member. Moreover, each financial secretary is responsible for collecting and forwarding all per capita and PBF payments to the International Office in a timely manner.

With best wishes, we are

Fraternally yours,

  
Edwin D. Hill  
International President

  
Jon F. Walters  
International Secretary-Treasurer

EDH/JFW:smj  
Copy to All International Officers  
All International Representatives



**Local 18, IBEW  
Cordially invites you to our  
Holiday Reception**

**Thursday December 7, 2006  
4:00pm-8:00pm**

**Sheraton Universal Hotel  
333 Universal Hollywood Dr.  
Universal City**

**Live Music, Food, Refreshments**

**RSVP Required, Limited Space  
No later than November 30, by calling  
213-387-8274**

**We would like to wish  
all of our members and their families  
a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving Holiday.**

**Local Union 18, IBEW  
675 S. Park View Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90057  
Phone: (213) 387-8274  
Fax: (213) 739-6937  
Website: [ibewlocal18.com](http://ibewlocal18.com)**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

First Class  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Permit No. 33063  
Pre-Sort

**Business Manager &  
Executive Editor**  
Brian D'Arcy

**President**  
Frank Miramontes

**Vice President**  
Phil Williams

**Treasurer**  
Judy Litowitz

**Recording Secretary**  
Eugene Canzano

**Executive Board**  
Jim Barham  
Stan Deichen  
Debbie Ferrer  
Dave Huff  
Jesse Mercado  
Billie Washington