



# SURGE

**For Members of IBEW Local 18 and their Families**

## BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

### Fighting Hard for You

By Brian D'Arcy



**L**ocal 18 and its members are going to face a number of challenges in the next year that are going to require us to stay vigilant and informed. These

challenges also serve as a reminder that it is important for us to stay involved in City politics so that our members have a voice when the politicians are acting true to form.

For example, the LADWP Pension Plan faces significant issues. Due to the financial market meltdown, the plan has lost 32% of its value since 2008. The situation is made worse by the requirement that the plan meet an 8% growth target each fiscal year. By the end of this year the loss will have increased to a staggering 40%.

Under the law, DWP is obligated to make up the contributions that will keep the plan at a legally acceptable level of funding. In real terms this means that DWP is on the hook for \$1.4 billion in contributions beyond what is already budgeted. We will have to be watchful and active to keep them from attempting to shift the burden from themselves on to the plan participants by cutting back on benefits that we have already earned.

Another important development is that the City of Los Angeles, facing a \$500 million plus budget deficit has entered into negotiations with some of the City Unions to explore options that would reduce their payroll. The City Council passed an ordinance--under the cover of darkness--that would allow mandatory furloughs in the non-proprietary departments. This puts pressure on the Unions to make concessions, to save their members from salary rollbacks caused by the furloughs.

This ordinance was passed in such a way that the courts would probably overturn it since it violates the Charter Civil Service Rules and the Myers Milias Brown Act. But meanwhile, at the time of publication, negotiations with some City Unions continue with the goal of reducing employees by 2500. A variety of mechanisms are being explored including layoffs, "targeted" retirement incentives, wage concessions and increases to the employee contribution to the retirement plan.

The upshot for us is that whatever comes out of these negotiations could affect us, even though our contract is closed. We have to keep an eye on what is happening with these negotiations. We have already stopped one bargaining agreement that would have tied our hands in the next round of bargaining.

Things are also happening on the state level. Against the backdrop of the State budget crisis a heated debate is taking place around a new accelerated Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) that would apply to Municipal Utilities.

The Mayor and DWP have been trying to reach a 20% RPS by 2010. They are currently only at 8.2%. So their strategy has been to purchase power (mostly out of state) that they don't really need at higher prices to meet their artificial goal. The legislation in its current form would to some extent prohibit this practice after 2012.

Ratepayers and the environment have been the losers because of this phony strategy. We will continue to push for a real renewable strategy at the DWP because that is in the best interests of the City and of our members.

The bottom line is that we will need to stay on top of these and other developments in the coming months. In times like these, as someone once said, those who don't hang together will surely hang separately.

In Unity.

### CONTACT US

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*New website coming soon!*

### What's Inside

- 1 BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT
- 2 WATER TAPPING TEAM 2009
- 2 YOUR BENEFITS
- 3 CAREER SERVICE AWARD
- 3 EWMC REPORT
- 4 MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
- 4 NEWS UPDATE
- 5 FROM THE TRENCHES
- 8 IN MEMORIAM

“We've Come  
a Long Way  
Together”

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Big City Tappers at ACE '09

**B**rothers and sisters, we would like to recognize and congratulate "The Big City Tappers" on their achievement of making it to the Annual Conference and Expo "ACE '09" in San Diego, sponsored by AWWA. It was exciting for the "Tappers" to participate in this nationally recognized event.

The team worked hard to become competitive in a short amount of time. They did well with their raw time of 1 minute 47 seconds to tap and hook up a one inch copper service.

The team also did well in the Meter Madness competition, which consisted of reassembling a one-inch meter. They completed the reassembly with a competitive time of 52 seconds. Unfortunately, both times, including some added time penalties, were not fast enough to put them in the finals.

The team expressed high hopes for next year. They would like to have more teams assemble from Local 18 so that we can have some more competition from within the districts and have more than one team represent the Department next year. Way to go guys!!!

To get involved, contact Ken Delgado at:  
(213) 387-8274 x139.



(Left) The Big City Tappers in action at ACE '09



(Top) "The Big City Tappers" team.

Left to right: Setter - SWUW Oscar Salas, Cranker - SWUW Matt Hogan, Copperman- SWUW Bronko Anderson, Coach - WUS Danny Lopez, Meter Madness - MSW Devon Boldt



(Left) MSW Devon Boldt at work in the Meter Madness competition.

## MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

### Body Scan International

For Local 18 members enrolled in the Anthem Blue Cross plan there is NO OUT OF POCKET EXPENSE (effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008) for the BSI program. This benefit also includes one adult dependent. The next body scan mobile unit site visit at Local 18 headquarters will be:

August 25<sup>th</sup> - August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009

For more information, please call:  
(888) 724-8439



The Body Scan International "Scan Van" will visit  
Local 18 Headquarters  
August 25<sup>th</sup> - August 31<sup>st</sup>  
Call (888) 724-8439 for more info!

### Union Sponsored Medical & Dental Plans

For information, contact our Benefit Service Center at (800) 842-6635 or the Local 18 offices at (213) 387-8274.

### Life Insurance

Local 18 provides \$5,000 life insurance coverage for active members in good standing.

### 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 Office offers a maximum of twelve scholarships yearly to members for undergraduate study. The scholarships are each worth up to \$3,000 per year for a maximum of eight years.

### Educational Assistance

Local 18 will finance tuition fees and 50% of the cost of required books for Union labor-oriented classes.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Local 18 Member earns Career Service Award

**W**e are pleased to announce that LADWP Electrical Engineering Associate and Professional Unit Shop Steward Geoff Rolik was recently honored by the Los Angeles City Council with the Employee Career Service Award.

Geoff's nomination for the Employee Career Service Award was triggered by his role in getting Sylmar Switching Station back online after the Sayer fire destroyed all of the cables to the switch rack, causing a complete station outage. Geoff helped get Sylmar S.S. and the Converter Station completely restored on temporary wiring to deliver power - only 22 days after the fire. He was then instrumental in determining how to re-wire the station and redesign circuits to get Sylmar back online permanently



with minimal scheduled outages.

Geoff started with LADWP in 1982, and has spent his entire career in Power Station Test sections diagnosing, troubleshooting, problem-solving and commissioning major pieces of power equipment as part of capital, maintenance and

emergency-response efforts. Geoff has played critical roles in projects at Power Plant 1, Airway Receiving Station, Barren Ridge Switching Station, McCullough Switching Station, Castaic Power Plant, LADWP's four Steam Generation Plants, and dozens of receiving and distribution stations. After the Northridge earthquake, Geoff was instrumental in getting Rinaldi Receiving Station online within 24 hours of the quake.

After Geoff was honored at City Hall by the City Council, the members of the Local 18 Shop Stewards Council recognized him as well.

Thanks, Geoff, for your contributions to the community!

## ELECTRICAL WORKERS MINORITY CAUCUS



**Join the EWMC at our meetings every month at 5:00pm, prior to the Parent Body meeting at the Local 18 Union Hall**

Greetings to all. We are happy to announce that we have formed a new chapter of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) here at Local 18! Already our Chapter has been very active:

- We organized a Community Baby Shower that distributed almost \$5,000 worth of donated items to three women's shelters in the City of Los Angeles.
- We donated our time and labor to Restore - A Renewal Center for Women: Provided various Labor support, including tile work in the kitchen, yard work and general clean up, installation of 45 feet of wood fencing, installation of conduit lines for electrical and communication lines and various other donations of time and materials.
- We participated in the Spring Full of Joy Project by donating \$2,755 in gift cards & toy baskets to abused children in shelters, and hospitals.

This work has been very fulfilling for all of us that have been involved and we want you to JOIN US! To get involved with EWMC please contact President Martin Marrufo at (213) 387-8274 x107 or mmarrufo@ibewlocal18.org.

### EWMC Ongoing Projects:

- Continuing our efforts at Restore - A Renewal Center for Women.
- If you don't have the time to volunteer you can help Support our Troops stationed overseas by donating non-perishable items. Please contact your Union representative for a flier and more information on this worthy cause. We also need volunteers to help assemble the care packages. For more information please contact Jennifer Hadley at (213) 387-8274 x137 or jhadley@ibewlocal18.org.
- We are also sponsoring one elementary school in East Los Angeles for back-to-school supplies, clothes, and well as holiday gifts for the kids!

Please JOIN US in giving back to the community while supporting your union at the same time!!

## NEWS UPDATE

### *Glendale City Employees Association to consider affiliation*

The board of Directors for the Glendale City Employees Association, an 1000 member unaffiliated union which represents city employees in Glendale, voted at a July 1<sup>st</sup> special board meeting to ask Local 18 to present a merger agreement for consideration by the Executive Board. If passed by the Board, the agreement would then be voted on by the GCEA membership.

The resolution to request that Local 18 provide GCEA with a merger or affiliation proposal was passed with only one dissenting vote.

"We will welcome our brothers and sisters of the Glendale City Employees Association should they decide to affiliate with Local 18," said Business Manager Brian D'Arcy. "A vote to affiliate would be an important step forward for both organizations and for the labor movement in Southern California."

GCEA represents all city employees in Glendale including public works, the City Library, City Hall employees, the Glendale Department of Water and Power, and non-sworn employees in the police and fire departments.

### *Council District Two election set*

The dates for the special election to replace City Controller Wendy Greuel on the City Council have been set by the City Clerk's office for September 22<sup>nd</sup>. If a runoff is necessary it will take place on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

This is an important election for Local 18 members. "Wendy was a good friend to Local 18 on the City Council and an effective councilperson," said Business Manager Brian D'Arcy. "We need to work to replace her with someone of equal quality."

Not all of the candidates have filed paperwork yet for the open seat, but the candidates who are expected to run are Chris Essel, Paul Krekorian, Laurette Healey and Tamar Galatzan. Essel is a former executive with Paramount Pictures, Krekorian is an Assemblymember from the 43<sup>rd</sup> District representing Burbank and Glendale, Healey is a former candidate in the 40<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, and Galatzan currently serves on the Los Angeles Unified School District Board.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



“Okay everybody, it’s time to hit it and let’s go!”

**O**ur featured member this month is Louie Lozano, who has been a member of IBEW Local 18 for twenty six years.

**Q. When did you become a member of IBEW Local 18?**

**A.** I became a member in March of 1983 before I even passed probation.

**Q. Where have you worked over the years?**

**A.** I've worked in Underground Power Distribution, the Water Department Electric Shop, Power design and construction, the Scattergood Generating Station, and I've been working in station maintenance since 1997.

**Q. What is your favorite part about working for the DWP and being a member of IBEW Local 18?**

**A.** Working for DWP my job is very rewarding and even though I've been around for almost 27 years I haven't stopped learning. As far as being a Local 18 member I'm part of an organization that's been around since 1893 and I'm part of the team that keeps the lights on in the city of Los Angeles. Also the fact that I'm a member of one of the strongest, if not the strongest, Unions in California and the country.

**Q. If you could have dinner with any one person dead or alive who would it be and why?**

**A.** John F. Kennedy. I believe he would have a unique perspective as to how much our country has changed since it was founded and I really believe that he was the last president to understand what this country was meant to be.

**Q. Do you have a favorite saying or motto?**

**A.** Every morning what I tell my crew is, "Okay everybody it's time to hit it and let's go!" If I don't say it my crew reminds me to say it.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We want to put the spotlight on you, our members. What's happening in the field?

Tell us about:

Special Events, Innovations in the field, Teamwork, Announcements for fellow members, Special projects or recognition. Submit your photos, drawings or cartoons.\*

Please help us know "What's Happening" by sending in your announcements and photos to Jennifer Hadley by mail or at:

[jhadley@ibewlocal18.org](mailto:jhadley@ibewlocal18.org)

(remember not to send from your DWP email account)

Thank you for your participation!



Local 18 EWMC Members volunteering in New Orleans in January. Gus Corona, Gil Sanchez, Mike Featherston, Glenda Wright (New Orleans African American Museum), Shawn McCloud, Lilly Calvache, Billie Washington

*\*Please note that we will not be able to accept items such as grievances, complaints, or political views for this section (save that for your union reps). We want to highlight positive happenings in your unit.*



# FROM THE TRENCHES - BUSINESS REP REPORTS

## **Unit 1 – Electrical Distribution** **by Bill Lewis**

At the time of this writing 25 new Exempt Electrical Helpers started their first day on the job. The exempt helper program was developed to address a lack of qualified candidates for the Electric Distribution Mechanic Trainee (EDMT) class. Experience has shown that helper experience is critical for success in the training program. Exempt helpers are required to take the civil service exam for the EDMT program and be appointed to the position within 18 months. Failure to do so will result in their termination from employment. This program is designed specifically to provide an avenue to develop apprentices.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> we opened the books for the first signing and had over 370 people sign the three books we will dispatch from. The line was over three blocks long and started forming five days prior. The first dispatch consisted of people that completed the Trade Tech Lineman class and also included two from Massachusetts that had completed a two-year apprenticeship just when the sponsoring company had a hiring freeze. We welcome all the new exempts and wish them good luck.

I am looking for volunteers to help develop the curriculum and train helpers to pass the EDMT exam. If you are interested in assisting our members to promote contact Bill Lewis at (213) 387-8274 x112.

• **Next Meeting: September 10, 2009, 5:30pm at Local 18**

## **Unit 3 – Electrical Testers** **by Leslie Abbott**

After years of being extremely understaffed, the Test Lab got a major influx of staff in 2008-09, capped off by the 44 new Electrical Testers that started work at the end of April. The ten Senior Testers who have been writing the trainee program curriculum got a chance to "pilot" parts of it during a three-week training of the new Testers before they were deployed to their sections. Many thanks to Alex Castro, Ray Dodson, Gilman Jung, Peter Liwag, Hoi Lee, Randy Lubs, Roger Luna, Cris Martinez, Bill Stark, and Trung Ta for all of your efforts. And welcome to the new testers. They're

a great group!

The Test Lab has been stepping up its game in the safety arena, too. Additional test lab personnel attended the Joint Safety Institute's Worker Safety Tour training this spring in order to involve more people in safety tours. Forty supervisors, leads and journey-level Testers and engineers were able to take the JSI's Field Ergonomics class in April and May. The best practices sharing among the different test sections about safety was enlightening and engaging. Everyone trained has committed to sharing the safety tips and tricks with the staff who weren't able to attend. Thanks to Tester Jose Acero who did a lot of behind-the-scenes legwork and coordination to make the Field Ergo classes a success!

• **Next Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 4:15pm, odd months at Artesian Street and even months at Main Street**



*On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Local 18 opened books to fill several Distribution Electrical Craft Helper positions. A line began forming 5 days earlier that started in the Local 18 meeting Hall...*

## **Unit 9 – Generating Stations** **by Gus Corona**

After going two years without hiring a steam plant assistant class starting back in 2005, the Department is at a point where it will finally be able to keep up with attrition in the generating stations. Since 2007 the Department has added 85 new trainees. That's not to say that the Union can stop pushing for more classes in the future, the potential for a significant amount of generation employees to retire in the near future is still there. Along with increasing the number of trainees, we were able to convince Management to increase the size of the training staff. As of this year the training staff

has added five new positions. This new positive direction can be attributed to both the Union and Management working together on the In-Basin

Training JLMC.

## **Unit 13 – Automotive by Ken Delgado**

The Fleet Services JLM process is giving a positive response to the issues that are being brought to the table. Currently we have been working on consolidating the many different brands of antifreeze, oils, and hydraulic oils that will result in huge cost savings, and space in the shops. Special thanks to Michael Brennan for all his hard work on researching to find all compatible liquids and oils for the different equipment.

We are also having discussions regarding the Main St. body shop. Labor has informed Management of the concerns that the supervisor and the autobody repairers have in the shop. Currently there is one supervisor and 10 autobody repairers to repair all the vehicles and equipment for all of Water and Power. The body shop is extremely busy and has a lot of work to get done. We will continue the discussion and pursue resolution of the concerns in the body shop.

A couple of months ago the issue of 10% overtime (o.t.) came into question regarding contracts slowing down and, in some shops, no contracts going out. Management quickly looked to stop the o.t. During the Nahai tour 2009, Mr. Mark Bertik asked how the o.t. can be stopped when we (Fleet Services) have all this rental equipment throughout the Department. If we owned this equipment we would be maintaining and repairing that equipment. Our work is being contracted out. Mr. Nahai couldn't answer and my understanding is that Mr. Anderbery met up with your very own Mr. Mark Bertik to let him know that they would look into that rental equipment issue. As you all know the 10% is being enforced per the MOU for contracting out your work. As a Union Steward Mr. Bertik did a fine job in speaking up for his Union members. Job well done Mark!

• **Next Meeting: August 5, 2009 3:00pm at Valley Center**

• **Continued on Page 6 •**

## FROM THE TRENCHES *(continued from page 5)*

### **Unit 15 – Pasadena** **by Bill Lewis**

The coalition of City Unions has met a few times regarding the retiree medical issue. Clearly the varying interests are going to cause some problems developing a program worthy of our membership. However, a letter was sent to Human Resources requesting to meet and confer on the issue. I am confident a program can be developed with or without all the unions.

It appears the City has gained concessions from the other bargaining units. Local 18 stood strong and refused to give anything away. Discussions with the new City Manager have made it clear he understands our issues and is interested in negotiating a new MOU prior to the expiration date, unlike previous administrations. Time will tell if he has the fortitude to make it happen.

The June unit meeting was well attended and brought forth some good discussion. We also voted to suspend meeting until September.

- **Next Meeting: September 3, 2009, 4:15pm at the American Legion Hall**

### **Unit 17 – Field Groups** **by Nancy Romero**

We want to thank the members of the Water Conservation Team for the great job they are doing representing the Department and Unit 17. Several of our Water Conservation Team members have been thrust into the media spotlight and have been educating the public on the City ordinances regarding water conservation. They have responded to approximately 7,000 activities since its inception last fall. The majority of the water conservation activities involve educating the public on the prohibitive water uses outlined in the City's Water Conservation Ordinance. As the different phases of the ordinance have been implemented the Conservation Team members have had to increase their education efforts and have moved to an enforcement phase. Our members have issued approximately 3,900 warning citations; 60 citations resulted in a second level fine, about 10 have reached a third level and about 3-4 have had 4th level fines.

Cindy Coffin wants to thank the members for attending our monthly unit meetings at the Temple Street Yard. We moved our meetings from the Hall to the yard

and it has made a big difference in the participation every month. We want to encourage more of our members to attend!

- **Next Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:30pm at the Temple Street Yard**

### **Unit 19B – Shops** **by Martin Marrufo**

The Electrical Repairer Trainee program has been moving forward and is expected to have ten trainees in the program by the end September. Our Supervisors and Journey Level members will be called on to help in the training process on a daily basis. Training modules also have to be finalized in order to provide adequate training in the field and in classrooms. We are expecting to continue this training program in the future, and there should be a Civil Service test every two years. Electrical Craft Helpers should study up and be prepared for the next exam.



*...The line continued out the door...*

We have a great deal of knowledge and experience leaving for retirement within the next year or two. Local 18 is working with the Department to capture this knowledge in our training program. Please take the time to provide information and help our trainees to absorb as much of this information as possible.

We also have a Machinist Apprenticeship that we are working on as well as a Metal Trades Apprenticeship. I cannot stress enough how important it is to participate in helping these trainees acquire the knowledge and experience they will need to keep the citizens of Los Angeles as well served as all of you have in your time here.

### **Unit 25 – Gardeners** **by Nancy Romero**

We are now back on track in completing the second audit for the landscape grievance that was filed last year. As previously

reported, the grievance was positively resolved and the agreement to compensate the members for their meal periods and for working beyond their 8 hours while on Saturday overtime was reached.

While the first part of the grievance has been completed, we continue to work with Management to resolve the second part, which was the repayment of the half hour at the double time rate. The person that was assigned by the division to perform the second audit was able to compile three boxes worth of payroll and other information that is needed to prepare the audit. Unfortunately, that person retired earlier this year and it has not yet been determined how far they got in preparing the audit.

Business Support Service staff has all the information they believe they need to prepare this next audit, but they did not have the appropriate staffing needed to continue with the audit. This issue has now been resolved and we are once again on track with preparing the audit and reaching our mutually agreed upon grievance resolution. We will continue to keep members abreast of this item at our Unit Meetings and through subsequent articles.

- **Next Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 4:30pm, location rotates between Local 18 and the Saticoy Yard.**

### **Unit 31 – Professional** **by Leslie Abbott**

We have a lot of new Engineering Associates and I'm happy to report that nearly all of the new folks have become members of Local 18 and have sent in their personal email addresses to be on the Pro Unit email distribution list. (If you haven't yet, please send it to me at [labbott@ibewlocal18.org](mailto:labbott@ibewlocal18.org)).

To meet the new folks and do my part for "orientation," I have started scheduling lunches with squads that have 50% or more members who have been hired in the last two years. It has been great. Big thanks to the people who have coordinated get-togethers so far: Auny Giang, Omari Ferguson, Eduardo Juarez, Keith McCabe, Eugene Ramirez, Vincent Rivera & Nikhil Harinath, and Marlon Santa Cruz. If you want schedule a lunch for the newbies in your squad, please let me know!

**• Continued on Page 7 •**



## FROM THE TRENCHES *(continued from page 6)*

The Joint Labor Management Committee that coordinates the Student Engineer Program has been great and they work really hard. Special thanks to Jennifer Aytona, Chin Chang, John Miller and Evelyn Cortez-Davis who have done the heavy lifting for the student orientation, system tours, and the closing event. Great work!

• **Next Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 5:15pm, odd months at Local 18 and even months in JFB Room A5A.**

### **Unit 33 – Administrative** **by Shawn McCloud**

There has been an increase in calls regarding contractors performing bargaining unit work. I am finding that many contracts are being processed for under \$150,000.00. The contract wording is written with wiggle room for the contractor to infringe on bargaining unit work. Alert - be careful on how you write your contracts - do not give the farm away. Preserve your work, call me at (213) 387-8274 x111 if you have questions. Please note that not all contracts come to Local 18. Therefore, you have to be the watch person to ensure that bargaining unit work is done by Union members.

We are looking for members interested in conducting Worker Safety Tours. You will be trained and will be working for an awesome group.

Members that work outside of JFB should accept the opportunity to take the CPR, First Aid and AED training that is offered by the Department. This training is a result of the Clerical Worker Safety Joint Labor Management Committee ensuring that enough people are trained in the outlying offices that are non field personnel. Please inform your supervisor that you want to participate in the training and ask for a charge number. Contact Jaime Hernandez of Corporate Safety at (213) 367-8637 to sign up for the class.

• **Next Meeting: September 16, 2009 at Local 18**

### **Unit 35 – Supervisory Technical** **by Leslie Abbott**

One spends so much time learning the acronyms and insider nomenclature of the Department, it's hard to change gears when things get re-named. Usually, its a re-org, or a section changes its name to something cumbersome that sounds like

it has been market-tested within an inch of its life. Or it's just inexplicably random. (Probably my favorite memo is the decree from former General Manager Deaton that we shall use the term "Division" rather than "Business Unit.")

The most recent change is that the Senior Utility Marketing Representatives are now referred to as Senior Utility Services Specialists. But it's for a good reason. First, their work is much more complex and varied than the term "Marketing" implied. Also, the series was just professionalized, with a new class specification and DDRs, and the promotional path was straightened out. And then there's the fact that Local 18 and Management were able to settle a wage issue that started back in the EAA days, raging for about 15 years. So "Senior USS" it is! We did not hold a Super Tech Unit Meeting in the spring, but we do plan to do it in September. If anyone has a suggestion for a venue, email me at [labbott@ibewlocal18.org](mailto:labbott@ibewlocal18.org). Let's mix it up!

• **Next Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the**



*...Around the corner, and down the street three blocks!*

**month at 5:00pm at the JFB.**

### **Unit 55 – Communications** **by Nancy Romero**

The Telecommunication Joint Labor Management Committee continues to meet every other month. All JLM Minutes are available for review on the ITS website. Unit 55 members are encouraged to forward any items or issues to any member of the JLM for consideration. JLM members also welcome all input on current agenda items. The JLM meets on the second Thursday of every other month.

We want to thank the Members of Unit 55 for participating in and successfully completing the first ever TELARC Training. Special thanks to Brother Mario Mascolo for

putting this very comprehensive training program together. We are now starting the second year of training. Shop Steward Gary Schmerbeck has gotten positive feedback from our members, and many have said that they enjoyed participating and found the training very informative. For now the Qualified Telecommunication Worker training program is in its conceptual stage. Training Coordinator Mario Mascolo will be working hard at putting this next training program together as soon as possible.

• **Next Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 4:30pm at the Boylston Yard Training Room**

### **Unit 64 - Azusa** **by Nancy Romero**

The Unit 64 Bargaining Committee has been working very hard on behalf of the Unit to negotiate the best contract we can. We thank brothers, Charles Alvarez (Purchasing Division), Santiago Cabral (Customer Services Division), Edward Casarez (Water Division), Keith Chagnon (Power Division) and Robert Ryan (Water Division) for all the time and effort that they have dedicated to making negotiations successful.

All of the ideas that came from our Unit meetings were consolidated with the Bargaining Survey that was done prior to negotiations. The committee worked long and hard to develop the comprehensive package of proposals that was submitted to management during our first two bargaining sessions. To date, we have had several negotiation sessions with management. We are now working hard towards getting a tentative agreement on our proposals that will ultimately be presented to our members for their consideration.

We want to thank the members of Unit 64 that worked on the new Filtration Plant project. The project took approximately three years to complete, and our members were there guiding the project and assuring its successful completion. Our members will now be working with some of the most technologically advanced, state of the art water micro-filtration systems in California.

• **Next Meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 5:45pm at Denny's Restaurant**

# In Memoriam

<i>James Hartnett, Retired Maintenance Laborer, initiated 10/1/86 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 4/14/08</i>
<i>Anthony Storto, Retired Journeyman Electrician, initiated 1/1/51 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 8/26/08</i>
<i>Richard Duarte, Retired Water Utility Worker, initiated 8/1/74 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 1/09</i>
<i>Felix Otero, Retired Com. Field Supervisor, initiated 3/1/74 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 11/27/08</i>
<i>Robert Saunders Sr., Retired Equip. Operator, initiated 5/1/81 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 9/8/08</i>
<i>Cyril Bauer, Retired Line Patrolman, initiated 12/1/49 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 2/15/09</i>
<i>Larry McMichael, Retired Line Patrolman, initiated 5/1/78 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 2/16/09</i>
<i>Robert A. Sadler, Retired Towerline Mechanic, initiated 1/1/62 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 11/19/08</i>
<i>Raymond Taggart, Retired Line Patrolman, initiated 7/27/46 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 12/2008</i>
<i>Lee Buell, Retired Meter Reader, initiated 12/1/74 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 6/27/08</i>
<i>Ismael Herrera, Retired Electrical Repairer, initiated 4/1/81 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 12/21/08</i>
<i>Norman Kitahara, Retired Machinist, initiated 4/1/84 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 3/9/08</i>
<i>William Koehler, Retired Const. Equipment Serv. Foreman, initiated 7/1/56 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 2/2/09</i>
<i>Robert Melhorn, Retired Line Helper, initiated 2/1/56 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 2/23/09</i>
<i>Herbert Swearingin, Retired Electrical Craft Helper, initiated 6/1/70 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 10/23/08</i>
<i>Joan Tellez, Retired Sr. Clerk Typist, initiated 4/1/84 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 9/30/08</i>
<i>Raymond Buckner, Jr., Retired Sr. Dupl. Machine Opr., initiated 8/1/81 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 11/10/08</i>
<i>Jose Hernandez, Gardener Caretaker, initiated 9/1/88 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 3/9/09</i>
<i>Romolo Lona, Retired Office Engineering Aide, initiated 8/1/55 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 3/24/09</i>
<i>Joseph Rosenthal, Electric Station Operator, initiated 12/1/87 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 4/13/09</i>
<i>Stanley Curtis, Retired Electrical Mechanic/ Journeyman Wiremen, initiated 7/1/63 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 5/1/09</i>
<i>Robert L. Ferris, Retired Line Foreman, initiated 1/1/49 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 4/17/09</i>
<i>Michael J. McEaney, Retired Line Patrol Mechanic, initiated 7/1/61 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away in May '09</i>
<i>Alexander Obregon, Retired Line Helper, initiated 9/1/57 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 10/20/08</i>
<i>Peter Vlottes, Retired Electrical Mechanic Foreman, initiated 2/1/48 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away in 2009</i>
<i>Gilbert Campos, Custodial Service Attendant, initiated 11/1/85 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 5/1/09</i>
<i>Craig Carpenter, Asst. Electrical Tester, initiated 4/1/03 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 5/11/09</i>
<i>Donald Custis, Retired Line Foreman, initiated 1/1/53 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 5/18/09</i>
<i>Shigeo Maruyama, Retired Journeyman Linemen, initiated 2/1/54 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 5/12/09</i>
<i>Robert Painter, Retired Journeyman Linemen, initiated 5/1/68 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 6/10/09</i>
<i>Dwane Wolfe, Retired Cable Splicer, initiated 4/1/68 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 4/16/09</i>
<i>John Scandlin, Retired Sr. Commercial Field Rep, initiated 9/1/98 by Local 18.</i>	<i>Passed away 3/30/09</i>

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