



HAPPY  
Holidays

DECEMBER 2020

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THE NEWSLETTER OF IBEW LOCAL 11



# Bringing George Lucas' Vision to Life

Cultural Landmark is a Once-in-a-Lifetime Job

By Oren Peleg

**W**hen Casey Fillhart, 34, wakes up each morning, his two young sons

routinely ask the same question "They want to know if I'm going to work on the spaceship today," Fillhart said with a laugh over the phone. "My kids think what I'm doing is super cool."

His job isn't on a spaceship—but it's close.

Fillhart, a general foreman overseeing lighting, is one of 32 union electricians who have put in more than 150,000 hours on the in-progress Lucas Museum of Narrative Art. Dreamed up by cinema legend and philanthropist George Lucas, the project will take up more than two city square blocks in the heart of Exposition Park just next to the Natural History Museum. Ground broke with IBEW 11's finest on site in March of 2018.

Previously intended for Chicago

and before that San Francisco, the soon-to-be Southern California cultural landmark will include 100,000-square-feet of gallery space, state-of-the-art cinematic theaters, numerous spaces for onsite learning and engagement, restaurants, retail, and event space. Over 11 acres of new park space will surround the museum.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime job," Lee Villarreal said, proudly standing in front of the under-construction museum. Villarreal, who lives in San Fernando, is the project's

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## Biden-Harris Win Signals Positive Signs For Labor

National and Local Victories to Help Strengthen IBEW Work Picture

**I**BEW 11 members joined thousands of their IBEW brothers and sisters across the country to help write America's comeback story, electing Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in a

landslide victory. In addition, Local 11 members were instrumental in election wins in dozens of local races closer to home that will help ensure a positive work picture in 2021 and beyond.



"With the election of the Biden-Harris team, working families now have a champion in the White House," said IBEW Business Manager Joel Barton. "And IBEW, because of

(Continued on page 7)



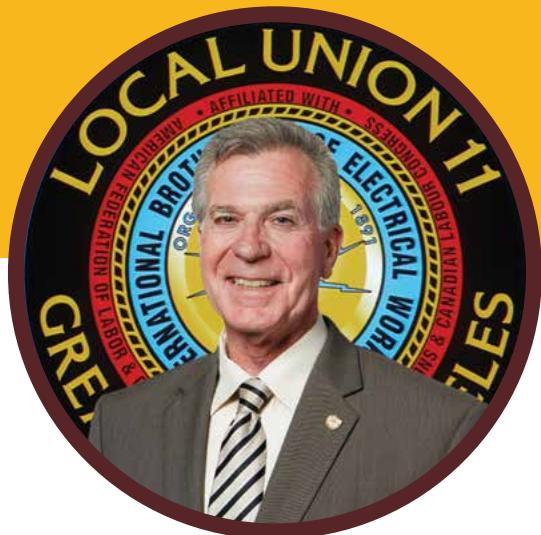
**Member Spotlight:  
Jeff Lorenzen**



**JW & IT Allocation Vote**



**#IBEW11Apprentice Campaign**



# BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Joël Barton

*Season Greetings Sisters and Brothers,*

**T**his will be like no other Holiday Season we have ever encountered. With a global pandemic front and center, our priorities and usual business has been altered indefinitely. In the wake of increased transmission of the virus, the State of California and the City of Los Angeles have issued new “stay at home” orders. This means all non-essential travel and business is prohibited. We have fought hard for and so far, have retained the definition of “essential worker and essential work.” This means, if you feel safe, you may go to work. This variation applies to travelling to work, your workday and going home. Please keep yourself, your family, and your fellow workers safe by following this edict.

You will have noticed changes at our Dispatch Halls and offices. Temperature checks, screenings and sanitization have been implemented to keep you and our staff safe. I know it can be tedious, but please exude a little kindness and remember we are all the same, just different. We all have the same goals --safety on our jobsites, a good life for ourselves and our families and dignity and respect from all those involved.

I hope you have joined in on some of our District and Unit meetings to keep abreast of what is going on in the union. Remember, you

are the Union and should be involved in the management thereof. We still cannot hold a virtual General Membership Meeting, but we are having informational meetings to update you on jobs, your welfare, and the local union. The IBEW Local 11 Executive Board has the authority and has been working diligently to continue the business of the local union. When we can finally meet in person, it will be a monumental task for the Recording Secretary to read all the minutes for your approval from mid-March.

Rest assured, your Business Representatives, Organizers and Union staff are still on the job working on your behalf as well as the Electrical Training Institute and Pension and Health personnel. I have received all your emails and suggestions for how to make the transition to this “new normal” regarding all these bodies and ask for your patience. We should have everything running properly in the beginning of 2021. It has taken some time to adjust from in person training, dispatch, and communications, but I think we are on the right track to make these better.

You all should have been notified of the changes made to the Supplemental Unemployment Benefit Plan. The Trustees were able to increase the payment, while collecting Unemployment Benefits, from \$24 per week to \$200 for apprentices and \$300 per week for journeymen. The newest change incorporated those apprentices attending day school. If the apprentice attends the entire week, passes the class, and submits a timely application, they will receive the benefit. This and all these increased benefits are for a specific time period and are

subject to change. I know some of you have expressed dissatisfaction with the application process and the administration of the SUB Plan. Please remember that the Trustees have a fiduciary duty to keep the fund intact for the benefit of all participants. Accordingly, the professional staff who administers the fund is charged with making sure all necessary documents are submitted to warrant a payment. Construction Electricians and Construction Wireman will also be compensated for their week of school, which should only be one or two weeks for some. The Labor Management Cooperation Committee will send all qualified CE/CW students a \$150 stipend for the completion of class.

The Engineers and Architects Association, at 1,500 members strong, is an important Unit of IBEW 11. Their recent elections produced an excellent Board of Governors who will represent and propel both unions to a higher level. We look forward to our continued relationship and camaraderie.

I wish to extend my gratitude for the trust you have placed in me to lead this great local union. I look forward to input from you all, whether it be positive or negative. All of you who know me know that I will always give you a straight answer, whether you like it or not. We will prevail through these unprecedented times and come out stronger for it.

*In Solidarity,  
Joël Barton  
IBEW 11 Business Manager*

# IBEW 11's NEWS@11

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Rusty Roten

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# From the President

## Despite the Pandemic, 2020 Had its Positives

Brothers and Sisters,

**A**s I write this article I count myself and all of us, fortunate. We are fortunate because

there are many positive things that took place in spite of the pandemic.

When the government shut down non-essential businesses, our electrical construction was considered essential. When the health department established protocols, our local adapted by providing face masks and our Business Manager went out to the jobsites to lead and to encourage everyone to work

safely and productively. When circumstances caused our members to go on unemployment, our local stepped up the supplemental unemployment benefit to provide additional financial support.

When large in-room gatherings and in person meetings were shut down, our local engaged in other forms of social media and communication. We now have our General and Unit meetings (temporarily) replaced with informational Zoom meetings. When our members and their extended families needed food supplies, our local collaborated with the L.A. County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, and hosted food bank drive-throughs at various locations including a couple at our ETI/Commerce facility. Since our local can't hold allocation meetings

to decide how to distribute our contract increases, our local has sent mail-in ballots to our members to allow them to vote.

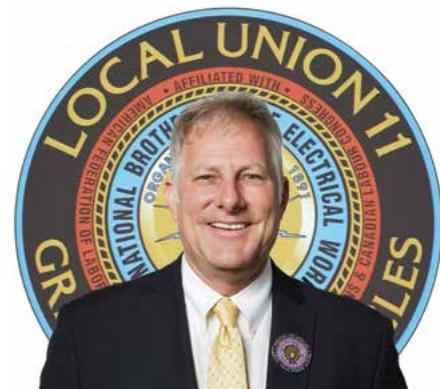
So here we are in December of 2020. Overall we have had a very good employment year for our members. Even our pension plan is showing a much stronger year end rate of return. I consider this a lot to be thankful for.

But we're not through. Our local has created a secure Zoom application for dispatch. That way our members can maintain social distancing and safely see the job calls on their cell phones instead of the job call monitors. Final construction is underway on the new South Bay dispatch hall and we hope to have it in operation by February of 2021.

I humbly thank you for allowing

me to be your president and I truly wish you all a pleasant Seasons Greetings. As always, if any of you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call our agents or our offices.

*God bless us all!*  
Gaylord "Rusty" Roten  
IBEW 11 President



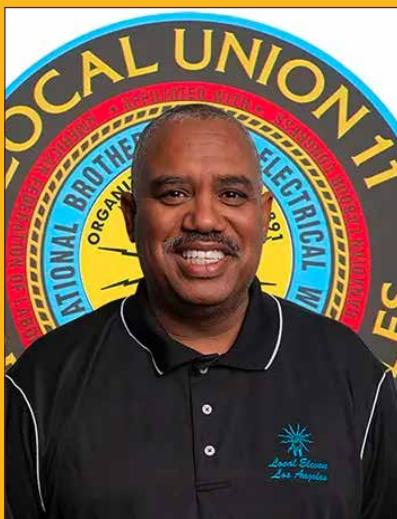
## INTRODUCING 11'S LEADERSHIP

# Local 11 Has Made My Life 'Better for the World'

## 10 Questions for Executive Board Member Michael Hawkins

By Evan Henerson

**N**ews @ 11 recently spoke to 15-year member and Executive Board Member Michael Hawkins about his work, background and leadership responsibilities in the union.



**Q: What made you decide to run for the Local 11 Executive Board?**

**A:** I'm part of the District 3 Executive Board, I've been on the welfare committee and a lot of other different committees. I was asked to step up a few years ago and put my name on the ballot. I said, "Yeah, I have no problem."

**Q: What have you learned since becoming an Exec Board member?**

**A:** I hadn't realized how in depth the information is that we as board members get about unions. You learn about how the International works vs. the locals and all the different categories of payments. I've been a steward two times, so that helped.

**Q: How did you join Local 11?**

**A:** I was organized in from Helix. My previous employer and I weren't seeing eye to eye and a friend of mine said, 'Come on over to the union.' I said, 'OK, I'll give

it a shot.' I have been in unions most of my life, with the Air Force Union Workers ground crew and before I was an electrician, I was a carpenter with Local 409.

**Q: How did you learn the trade?**

**A:** I have a degree in information systems and finance and I got into a little trouble with the Federal Government. When I was in prison, I learned electrical work. I knew I had to do something when I got out, and the construction industry is forgiving. I came out and said, "I'll give you my skills for the next three years and you can write me off on your taxes if you hire me."

**Q: What are some of the most memorable projects that you have worked on?**

**A:** I did Arrowhead Medical Center from the ground up. I was the GF - General Foreman on that. I also worked on San Pedro High School. I like start-ups. Power plants and hospitals are my specialty.

**Q: Do you come from a union family?**

**A:** Yes, my father was a fireman in the Air Force and he was with the air conditioning unit.

**Q: Tell us a little bit about your background.**

**A:** I was an Air Force brat so I grew up abroad. I was born in Nebraska and we lived in Germany and Spain. I came back to the states and did my junior high and high school years in Alabama. I came to Los Angeles to go to college at Cal State University, L.A.

**Q: Can you tell us about your family?**

**A:** My wife Sheila and I have been married 12 years although I have known her for closer to 18. We don't have children, but I have raised one child through another relationship for the last 15 years.

**Q: What are some of the key benefits of being a union member?**

**A:** We get better insurance and substantial retirement options. People have a tendency to care about each other in a union. It's a fraternity, like a brotherhood. We look after one another.

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# Member Spotlight: 32-Year Industry Veteran Jeff Lorenzen

By Evan Henerson

**J**eff Lorenzen's business card may label him as a production superintendent with Taft Electric, but that title only tells part of his story.

Lorenzen is an industry veteran, a residential wireman who went through the apprenticeship program and reclassified as an inside wireman. He is a supervisor and a mentor who reviews the work of his colleagues in an effort to make every overall job more productive.

Off the clock, he's a husband, father of three sons and grandfather of one granddaughter with a second due on New Year's Eve. An avid cyclist who has completed eight half-century rides with the Boy Scouts, he can often be found climbing the hills behind Palmdale where he makes his home.

And he's also a proud 32-year member of Local 11 who praises the benefits of being in a union and of working for company both of which have allowed him to raise and support a family.

"It helped me put three kids through college," Lorenzen said. "I've been able to do a lot of different type of work in the electrical trade. The fact that they let me teach things and mentor on

the job has been good."

A native of Huntington Beach, Lorenzen and his family moved to Colorado when Jeff was 9. His father, John, was a union butcher who ran a deli and liquor store. In 1986, when Lorenzen was in his early 20s, an electrician friend who had moved to California encouraged Lorenzen to come out and join him.

"He said, 'You could start working tomorrow,'" Lorenzen recalled. "So I packed up my stuff, moved out on a Friday, stayed at his parents' house over the weekend and started working on Monday. I haven't been able to qualify for unemployment since."

Two years later, Lorenzen married his wife, Giovanna. That

same year, he joined Local 11 as a residential wireman and eventually took the apprenticeship course that allowed him to reclassify as an inside wireman. Taft Electric has offices all over Ventura County, and over the years, the job has taken him to several memorable projects including the film preservation vaults in Santa Clarita, the west campus expansion of Antelope Valley College and a solar ranch in Lancaster that employed 350 electricians.

"The last time Rusty Roten had his tool bags on was a job for Taft Electric in the Pacific Palisades," Lorenzen said. "He told us that he was going to become the president of the union and we threw him a little hip hip hooray party."

While the COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the economy and affected jobs in every industry, the work of electricians is still considered essential. Given the protective equipment they routinely use, electricians are better prepared to stay safe than workers in other industries, according to Lorenzen.

"The policies and procedures that the company put into place to stay open makes it a little more challenging to go to jobs, but the governor has deemed us essential workers. That part of it is great," Lorenzen said. "Everyone on the job has been trained to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) for a lot of things. Hard hats, gloves, face shields are all things that we're all using all the time. Now we're basically doing that kind of thing at home."

On the home front, the pandemic has put a kink in the Lorenzens' ability to bond with their grandchildren. Two of their sons live out of town - one in Fresno, the other outside of Annapolis, Maryland. They have only seen their first granddaughter, Zoe (who is six weeks old) for a total of three hours.

"My wife has wanted grandkids for like six years now," Lorenzen said. "We're super excited [about the new arrival] but we probably won't be going out to see them until after the vaccine comes out."



# Members Speak Out

"I've been in the union for 20 years. Membership has benefited me quite a bit. I got married 5 years into my apprenticeship. The Local has supported me in purchasing a home, providing me with security and health benefits. It's near and dear to my family. It's allowed us to live a good life."

— RICHARD JAUREQUI, 58  
Foreman

"I've been in the union since 2005. It has been absolutely amazing. I've always had a job. I've always been able to provide for my family with healthcare benefits and a good salary that have taken care of us. I'm proud to say my union will continue to take care of us through the future."

— CASEY FILLHART, 34  
General Foreman

"I really wanted something that would provide financial security and medical benefits. The union checked those boxes. The bonus of it is the physical challenge as well as the mental challenge. I love that I need to use math to circumvent obstacles and provide solutions."

— ERIC ILLARRAMEMDI, 28  
Inside Wireman Apprentice

"31 years in the union and as far as I'm concerned, I'm in the perfect situation. I couldn't ask for a better life. I've always been busy with steady work and it has let me live a comfortable life. That would be enough, but I also have all the knowledge I've gained from my work installing state-of-the-art equipment. It's been a rewarding ride."

— ED GARCIA, 55  
General Foreman

"I try to push the trade on a lot of these young guys. It gives direction and a career. Where else in just five years can you be making close to six figures with great benefits and without debt? I owe the union everything. I have a great salary, benefits, retirement, my pension—a good life."

— LEE VILLARREAL, 41  
Superintendent



## GEORGE LUCAS

(Continued from the page 1)

superintendent responsible for scheduling support and prioritizing duties out to the field.

"There are lots of things on this project that haven't been done before. It's an exciting opportunity for so many of us for so many reasons," he continued.

One reason the project is exciting for Villarreal is the building's revolutionary seismic crossing system. Specially-designed electrical cabling and wiring will cause the seismic isolators at the foundation to absorb shock and allow the building to sway four feet in any direction — a cutting edge earthquake precaution measure.

"It's a very unique endeavor," he said. "It's made possible with a great team of guys. We've got great chemistry together out here so it really feels like working with family."

Villarreal's team is working with over 900,000 feet of conduit and more than 2.6 million feet of wire to set up 120 different light fixture types and upwards of 16,000 feet of linear track lights. The team comprises some of the most experienced IBEW 11 members like general foreman Ed Garcia. Garcia is focusing primarily on helping install solar paneling on the curved roof, which is proving to be a challenge.

"Most installations go on flat roofs," explained Garcia, a member of Local 11 for 31 years. "This surface we're installing on is completely asymmetrical, so we have to install flat solar panels so they curve with the building. That means aligning them, tilting them and working with complex angles."

Garcia admitted that the installation process can be stressful. But the problem-solving aspect of the job is rewarding too.

"It's all of the above," he said. "It's fun to exercise your mind and find solutions working with engineers and coordinating work at different locations. I've spent a lot of hours on it. It's something I've never done before."

Oscar Barraza, 49, the site's general foreman overseeing the distribution boards and single lines, is also having fun. The



camaraderie he said feels with his team and the daily tackling of new challenges is making this job a memorable one.

"Every job is different and has its own unique pieces, its trying moments," Barraza said. "Some days it feels like there's always some obstruction, some new technology we're working with, or some new infrastructure element to work around. But at the same time, when you have a great group of guys with you like I do, you just look forward to those things and figuring it all out together."

After 20 years in Local 11 and a previous stint working for nearly eight years non-union, Barraza knows the value of having a strong, union team at his side.

"I've been on both sides," he said. "In the union, it's just much better stability, better training and a better life. It's a good living I'm making, I'm in a great trade and I'm able to support my family."

For some of the younger folks on the job, being able to learn from experienced professionals has been

a highlight and an opportunity.

"It seems like there's always direction," said Eric Illarramendi, an inside wireman apprentice who has been with Local 11 for three years. "There's no faltering and even if there's an obstacle there's always a solution in a matter of minutes. The experience of the team shows when I'm working with them. I'm able to pick their brains whenever I need questions answered."

Luis Guerrero, 23, an apprentice, is taking it all in and soaking up mentorship wherever he can.

"This is the biggest job I've been on yet," he said. "I'm learning something from pretty much everyone. It's really been fascinating."

Guerrero credits Local 11 with providing direction to his life. At 15, he had his first child and he said he was determined to establish a clear career track.

"I joined the union when I was 19. I've been working ever since. It's meant a steady check, good benefits, and I can support my family," he said.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 150,000 – Number of manhours contracted to date
- 32 – number of electricians on site
- 2 – number of square city blocks the project encompasses
- 4 ft – amount of sway shock insulators are built to withstand
- 900,000 ft – amount of conduit used
- 2.6 Million ft – amount of wire to be installed
- 120 – number of different fixture types
- 16,000 ft – amount of linear track lights used
- 1,800 ft – amount of 2Hr rated mineral insulated cable used

# The Allocation Vote is in

## JW and IT Members Cast Their Ballots

**O**n Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 Allocation votes were tallied for the Inside Wiremen and Transportation

Wiremen classifications. Option A was the winner for the Inside Wiremen, while Option B was the preferred choice for Transportation members.

Of the 2,056 Inside Wiremen votes cast:

- 1,070 voted for Option A, allocating \$1.25 to wages, \$.25 to the medical plan, \$.25 to the Defined Contribution plan, \$.10 to Health Reimbursement Account, and \$.05 to Supplemental Unemployment Benefits.
- 906 voted for Option B, allocating \$1.90 exclusively to wages.
- 76 voted for Option C, "other."
- 4 ballots were voided

Of the 78 Transportation Wiremen votes cast:

- 43 voted for Option B, allocating \$1.90 exclusively to wages
- 34 voted for Option A, allocating \$1.25 to wages, \$.25 to the medical plan, \$.25 to the Defined Contribution plan, \$.10 to Health Reimbursement Account, and \$.05 to Supplemental Unemployment Benefits.
- 1 voted for Option C, "other." Local 11's Executive Board was tasked with opening and counting the ballots to determine the tally.

The election was verified by two tellers.

### Check us out on social media



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@ibew11



**The following wage increase becomes effective Feb. 1, 2021:**

For JW:

- |                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| • IJW hourly wage: | \$51.50 |
| • Health package   | \$13.19 |
| • Pension (DB)     | \$9.03  |
| • Pension (DC)     | \$5.79  |

Total = \$79.51

For IT:

- |                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| • T/S JW hourly wage: | \$51.30 |
| • Health package      | \$13.14 |
| • Pension (DB)        | \$9.08  |
| • Pension (DC)        | \$5.99  |

Total = \$79.51

## New Local 11 Club Has a Ticket to Ride

By Jimbo Cluck

**A**fter two years of laying the groundwork, Local 11 finally has its own chapter of the Electrical Workers Motorcycle Club that was started in 1995 in Local 3, New York. Just when we were ready to start up the Local 11 club, COVID hit. So we waited a few months, and ultimately decided to get started during the long months of the lockdown. We all needed to get out

and ride, and what better way to do it than together with your IBEW family?

On Aug. 8, the IBEW Local 11 Riders Club had our first meeting/ride with the "First Five" members. We have had several more meetings and rides, and have reached our first year goal of 11 members. (Since we are Local 11, we thought that was a good number!) Our club's goal is to bring our Brothers and Sisters together on American- and union-made bikes (over 880cc's) to do positive things for the

community and the local. We have several more riders looking to join soon, and will be accepting new members in 2021. All American and Union made bikes over 880cc's are welcome to ride with us on all of our runs.

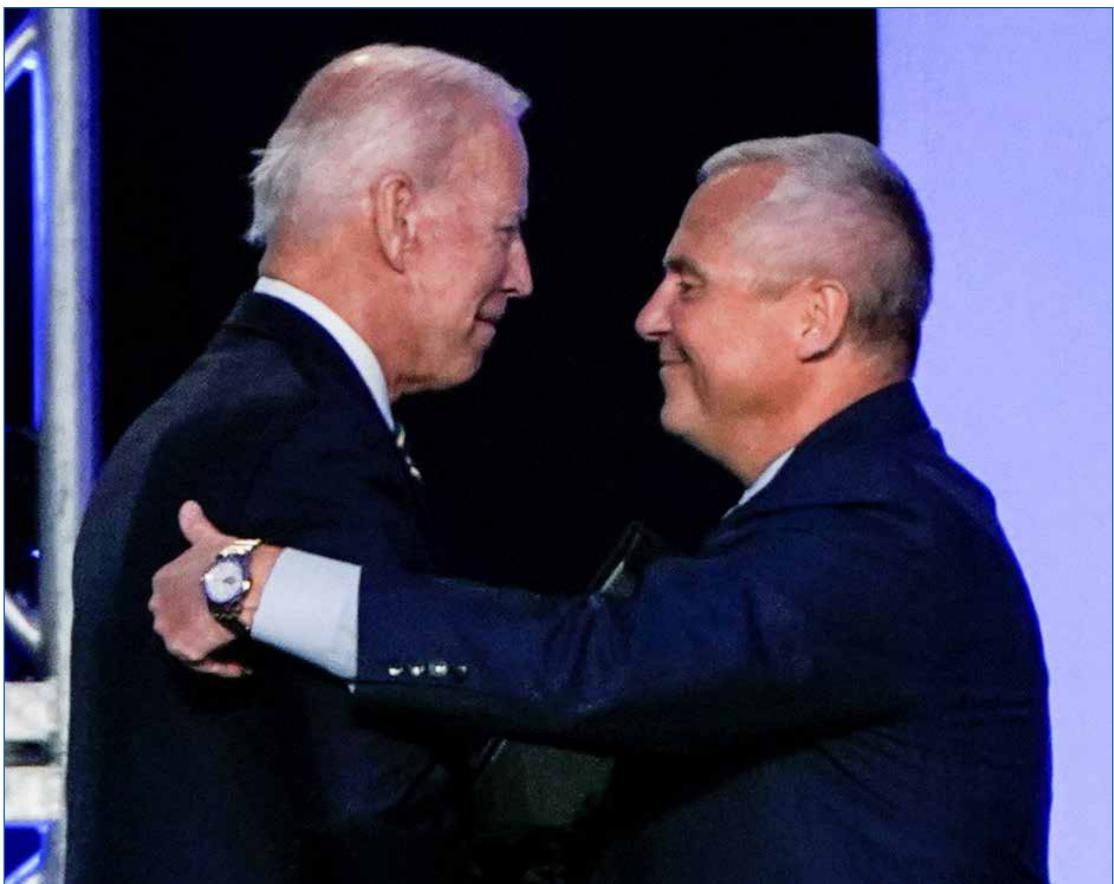
Our first major run was on Sunday Nov. 22 as we joined forces with our fellow Building Trades brothers and sisters -- the Ironworkers M.C., and the Pipe Fitters M.C.-- for the Ironworkers' annual Toy Run which helped bring much needed Christmas presents to

those who are less fortunate. It was a great day for all, and I would like to send out a hearty thank you to both clubs for the warm welcome.

Anyone who is interested in joining the club should reach out to one of our members for sponsorship. You can also contact me, Jim "Jimbo" Cluck at [jimsteward11@gmail.com](mailto:jimsteward11@gmail.com) for more information.

*Jimbo Cluck is the president of the IBEW Local Riders Club*





International President Lonnie Stephenson, who will serve on Biden's transition team, greets the president-elect. "I want to thank all the IBEW brothers and sisters who made phone calls, sent messages and spoke to their friends, family and co-workers to make sure our voice was heard. When IBEW members vote, IBEW members win."

## BIDEN-HARRIS

(Continued from the page 1)

the foresight of our international leadership, will have an important seat at the transition table and beyond. Make no mistake, this will create and protect work for our members and in the construction industry."

"We will now have people in power who understand that Unions are the best way to ensure that workers have safe working conditions, a voice on the job, and good benefits and wages," said Barton.

IBEW International President Lonnie Stephenson, agrees. "Union voters were decisive in Joe Biden's and Kamala Harris' election victory, and I want to thank all the IBEW brothers and sisters who made phone calls, sent messages and spoke to their friends, family and co-workers to make sure our voice was heard. Local 11 proved once again that when IBEW members vote, IBEW members win."

IBEW was an early endorser of Joe Biden, taking a chance on backing his candidacy in its infancy. And now, with Biden promising to be "the most pro-union president you've ever seen," labor will reap the dividends. In stark contrast to the current administration and its anti-union policies that froze out labor, International President Stephenson will be a key member of Biden's transition team, co-chairing the Climate Engagement Advisory Council.

In another sign that things are looking up for labor, two congressional representatives, Marc Pocan of Wisconsin, and Donald Norcross of New Jersey (an IBEW member) announced on Nov. 13 the formation of the House of Representatives' first Labor Caucus in Congress to represent the interest of organized labor on Capitol Hill.

## CLOSER TO HOME

In LA County, 75 percent of all eligible voters in L.A. County cast a ballot in the November election, noted IBEW 11's political director Antonio Sanchez. "That's a big increase of about 10 percent compared to the 2016 Presidential general election turnout. Here at IBEW Local 11, we pushed our members to register to vote online by visiting [www.ibewvotes.com](http://www.ibewvotes.com)."

The 11 for 11 voter registration campaign, coined by organizer Francisco "Paco" Arago, successfully registered close to 300 voters, Sanchez said. "Considering that we did this mostly via text and email, we should be proud of the work we produced."

"Despite the local's campaign activities being reduced because of the pandemic, our work made an impact," Sanchez added. "Some races were decided by dozens of votes. For example, a seat on the Culver City's City Council was secured by a candidate that garnered 28 more votes than their opponent. And in the City of San Fernando, another candidate won her race by 24 votes. So yes, every vote matters."

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped make the local's voter registration drive such a success.

## CANDIDATE & BOND VICTORIES

There were also successes with other local candidates and bond measures that will work to improve the bottom-line work picture for our

members. In Alhambra USD, Local 11 members helped elect a pro-union majority that will move a project labor agreement forward. In Long Beach, our preferred candidates won seats on the Long Beach City College and the Long Beach City Council.

Their victories will preserve our work in both agencies. We also had allies elected in Carson, Cudahy, Downey, Santa Monica, Santa Clarita, San Fernando, Pasadena, West Hollywood, and other cities. Measures to fund school construction and renovations passed in Duarte USD, Pasadena USD, Inglewood USD, and LAUSD. These bond measures not only keep our local education facilities up to date and safe, but create many building trade jobs.

This year, many candidates campaigned on environmental issues. Specifically, on lowering greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning away from fossil fuels. "This is a hot topic for IBEW 11 members because we are the 'green jobs' union, and it will mean a lot of jobs for us," noted Sanchez.

In the City of Los Angeles, Nithya Raman beat incumbent David Ryu and will be the third woman on the council. Raman ran on an anti-corruption and pro-environment platform. "It is our hope that her pro-environment agenda includes high-road union jobs. Our members have been performing energy efficiency jobs, installing photovoltaic systems, and battery storage projects before it was hip," said Sanchez.

Business Manager Barton stressed the importance of the union's political involvement: "As governments focus more on lowering emissions and creating 'green jobs,' they must guarantee that our members will benefit with good paying, skilled jobs that will also help save the environment."



IBEW 11 members turn up the support for Biden on the jobsites.

# Safety: Personal Story of COVID

By Ivan De Herrera, Jr.

**H**appy Holidays my sisters and brothers. I wanted to share a personal story concerning COVID. We all have been inundated with so many negative stories that keep us tense and nervous. And at this current moment in time, we should be concerned. We need to be following guidelines, wearing face masks and doing everything we can to protect ourselves and others.

This is a Christmas story so it does have a happy ending. I was sick and my wife got sick as well. I don't know if I got the virus at work, at church, at the market or at the gas station. None of that matters. I had been vigilant like us all. Yet I tested positive a month ago. I had been to job sites prior to this diagnosis. I have been to sites since the pandemic started where I was on a contact tracing list. I tested negative each of the three times I was called to "go check"

prior to this last time.

Each and every one of you "essential workers" takes that same risk every day. I'm proud to be part of IBEW. I'm humbled by the dedication you all have to keep working or, in some cases, not to work. We all make the best choices for ourselves. Life is fragile, but we can't wrap ourselves in bubble wrap and think it will keep us safe. We do what we need to do.

During quarantine, I had time to contemplate and came to the realization of how much IBEW 11 and the membership means to me. My desire to get back to you all truly helped in my recovery.

We have to stay healthy so we can work. In order to take care of ourselves, our families and each other we need to stay in contact with each other and call each other for advice or to receive or offer support. We need to look after each other. We need to check on and encourage each other.

My wife and I got through this and I get another day to be an IBEW member. I get to say "I appreciate you all." I get another moment to try and do better. I get a chance to

say "Happiness and joy to you all."

We will get through this together. At this moment, "life is a gift." This season, call those sisters and brothers you haven't spoken to in a while. Hug those family members you can. Air hugs to all of you from me.

Stay vigilant. Be safe. Help those around you. Share your skills and knowledge with each other. Together we are IBEW. I thank God for another day to help our local. I thank God for family, and I thank God for you all. I know things are going to get better. We IBEW members are the smartest, toughest and best skilled trades people out there. Tough times don't last. Tough people do.



May this season give you peace and joy through these difficult times. May God bless and protect you, yours and all our IBEW family. I am honored to work for you. I am blessed to call you all friend, sister, or brother, my family.

Stay positive. There are better days ahead. It truly is a wonderful life!

## Retirees: Current Officers Continue for Next Term

By Al Etherton

**T**he club's monthly meetings currently are not being held and will resume when allowed.

We'll notify you by e-mail when we start having meetings again. If you have any questions, please contact us at RetireesClubIBEW11@gmail.com or call one of the officers.

The locals are not authorized to hold meetings. The I.O. will inform the locals when they may resume meetings, subject to state, city and county rules, regulations and safety protocols. The local is now conducting regular virtual

membership meetings via Zoom including district meetings and Executive Board meetings. Go to the local's website for dates and times, [www.IBEW11.org](http://www.IBEW11.org). We will continue forwarding you the information we receive from the local as we receive it. The Retiree's Club will also consider hosting a virtual meeting.

The local also sends out a monthly membership email blast and the Retiree's Club will forward these blasts to our members to help keep you informed on what is going on in the union. You can also find this information by going to the Locals web site at [IBEW11.org](http://IBEW11.org).

Due to the pandemic, the Retiree's Club Board of Directors held a phone conference meeting, where all agreed to stay in their position for another term. The

Executive Officers are President Al Etherton; Vice President John Vargas; Secretary Sandy Smith; Treasurer Dave Smith and Sergeant-at-Arms Joe Zamora. If you have questions, you can call any one of them.

I would also like to thank the directors who have also agreed to stay on for another term: David Alaniz, Jim Amato, Butch Bachand, Tom Jonynas, Fernando Martinez, Angelo Santoro, Anthony Vann and Joe Wassenaar.

As we enjoy the holidays, please be extra cautious with family and friends. Who doesn't want to hug them? But remember the mask and safety tips are not only to protect you but to help you protect your friends, acquaintances, and loved ones. Be safe and enjoy the holidays!

## Contact Information and Dues

As we work to keep our contact/mailing and dues list updated, we need your help. If we don't have your email, please provide us with it so that we can send you information electronically.

If you only receive the newsletter by e-mail, please provide us your name, mailing address and phone numbers so we can update our mailing list.

Dues for the 2021 year are due on January 1, 2021. The amount is \$6.

If you have not paid your annual dues, please send them in. We greatly appreciate your support for Local 11 Retiree's Club.

Thank you!

## DISTRICT 1

### Shomari Davis

Huntington Park High School has a \$92 million building project awarded to Taft Electric.

L.A. City College Central Plant Phase II is a \$11 million project awarded to MB Herzog Electric.

Adams Terrace Project is a \$36 million project that has been awarded to Walton Electric.

8th and Figueroa is still being excavated. It is a 40-story high rise project awarded to Rosendin Electric.

Figueroa and Pico is a high rise project with Suffolk as the General Contractor. SASCO Electric is scheduled to perform that project which is just coming out of the ground. They are at the second level and will need members.

Happy Holidays to all of the IBEW LOCAL 11 Family.

## DISTRICT 2

### Gary Tomlin

The Holidays are upon us and getting ready to close out this crazy 2020 year. 2021 is sure to be another great work year for Local 11. Let's continue to be safe over the holidays, spend time with family and appreciate all we have.

A little update on the new South Bay Hall coming to you early next year. Mike Costigan, our District 3 Business Agent, has found a great location for our South Bay Hall on the corner of 190th St and Van Ness, right off the 405 Freeway in Torrance. The expectation is to open the Hall up around early February. We will have a dispatch hall there (a little bigger than the Commerce Hall), offices for the Business Agents, Organizers, and a fulltime clerical worker.

The work picture in District 2 is staying steady, with most of the calls coming in for the refineries. If you do not have your TWIC card and RSO-20 and want to work in the refineries, take the class for the RSO and get the TWIC cards. As a Local 11 member,

you will get reimbursed for these (see the dispatch hall for this info).

If you see projects in the District 2/District 3 area and are unsure if they are union jobs, call Oscar Martinez our D2/D3 Organizer at (626) 429-1665 so he can visit the site. One of the main goals of our union is to organize all electrical workers into the great IBEW. We are stronger in numbers, and everyone deserves to work under fair and equitable conditions.

If you need to have an Agent come out to your jobsite for any reason, just want to talk or have some general questions, please do not hesitate to call or text me at (626) 375-5721 for the District 2 area or Mike Costigan at (310) 503-5337 for the District 3 area. As always, it is my honor to serve this membership as your District 2 Agent.

## DISTRICT 2

### REFINERIES REPORT

### Manny Solis

Refinery work in District 2 is very much on the rise. The contractors at various refineries in Carson, Wilmington, and Torrance will be in need of lots of manpower for upcoming turnarounds and for general maintenance throughout many of our refineries. All this work has come following the SB-54 legislation which passed and is now really taking effect and adding to our work picture.

There will be 60-70 calls for those who have RSO and TWIC cards out to the Phillips 66 Refinery in Wilmington for December and more calls in January for those who wish to do industrial work.

There is also a need for Certified High Voltage Cable Splicers and for Certified Process Instrumentation Technicians at Phillips 66. M.B. Herzog is working at Torrance Refinery - PBF and will be looking to hire more electricians after the first of the year for both turn-around work and for general construction.

## DISTRICT 3

### Mike Costigan

Even with COVID, we were able to keep a lot of members working. The airport is still our bread and butter location. I joined an informational Zoom meeting during which they were discussing the long-awaited Terminal 9 on the southeast corner of Sepulveda and Century. Terminal 9 will have 12 gates, 1.5 million square feet with four levels, and access to the new APM. I'll provide more info as it comes in. Also, the Purple Lines 1, 2 and 3 are all underway. Purple Line 1 is ready to push through the Wilshire/La Cienega station with build outs to continue, and completion expected in 2023. Purple Line 2 TBM's are drilling and have breached the property line of Beverly Hills High School with a completion date of 2025. And finally, Purple line 3 in moving forward with demo of some solar panels at the VA, the placement of the first TBM with a completion date of 2027.

If LAX/Crenshaw is any indication, the station build outs will provide plenty of work for our members. So please be on the lookout for any of those long-term projects. I wish all my Sisters and Brothers a safe and Happy Holiday. Please continue to do the right things, and we will get through this together.

## DISTRICT 4

### Marc Greenfield

The work picture in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys continue to look good for 2021 and beyond. As I have been reporting, there are some good size projects getting ready to start: two water filtration plants, LAUSD and LACCD projects, Olive View Medical Center and Tarzana Hospital. The Los Angeles City Council cleared the way for the \$1.2 Billion Westfield Promenade 2035. This new downtown district in the west San Fernando Valley will include a new events center, two hotels, a 28-story office tower and more than 1,400 new apartments.

# Organizing: Growing Our Member and Contractor Lists

## By Robert Corona

**A**s this unprecedented year comes to a close, I would like to share with you some results garnered through the work of the Organizing Department. Since we have been deemed an essential workforce, construction has been ongoing throughout this pandemic. And so, taking all necessary precautions, the organizers of Local 11 have

continued to visit non-union jobsites to spread the union message to the unrepresented electricians working in Los Angeles County. Through their efforts we are still organizing new members which has allowed us to meet the I.O.'s goal of attaining a 4 percent growth in "A" membership, this has helped us end our year with more than 9,400 "A" members.

But not only have we been bringing in members, we have also added 16 new contractors to our pool of signatory partners, four of which are strictly Sound

and Communications and one that is strictly Traffic Signal. We were instrumental in the efforts to obtain a Community Workforce Agreement at Mt. San Antonio College, which is estimated to generate up to \$1 billion worth of future work. Although this year was not amenable to large gatherings at convention halls, we were at the forefront with the L.A. Building and Construction Trades in obtaining an agreement with the Long Beach Convention Center which is similar to what we have with the L.A. Convention

Center and will ensure that we have more work for our members when conventions resume next year. Also, in Long Beach we were instrumental in the process of helping LABCT obtain a Community Workforce Agreement with the Long Beach Unified School District which has \$450 million dollars of work to be performed over the next five years.

In closing, I hope you and your family are safe and healthy throughout this holiday season and the new year.

The D4 Welfare Committee is on fire! The members have been hard at work adding exciting new merchandise which has proven to be popular and, in some cases, selling out in short time! Heather Renz, the D4 secretary continues to be an asset to District 4 with her hard work and dedication to the members.

I hope all of you essential workers will continue to be safe on the job. Happy Holidays and wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year in 2021!

## DISTRICT 5

### Mitch Klein

We are continuing to be busy at the Defense Plants, Antelope Valley College and the Palmdale School District. We are just starting the 100 MW Battery Storage Yard in Lancaster with more solar projects to follow. We are also working the Kaiser facilities in Antelope Valley and surrounding areas. We continue to have our food drive for the upcoming holidays and our ongoing tool drive in memory of our departed Brother Deon Watson. I would like to give a shout out to our District 5 Organizer Alton Wilkerson and our Civil Service / Manufacturing Representative Kristian Mendoza for all their hard work.

Our Journeyman classes are being held online via Zoom. If you need your hours toward State Certification, please notify the Electrical Training Institute for further information. Our Unit 5 meetings are the second Tuesday of every month at 5 pm via Zoom.

## DISTRICT 6

### Erik Delgado

I believe it is important for us all to remain strong and vigilant as we continue to do our part in helping to control this pandemic. With the new lifesaving vaccines and the new president elect, we finally have hope on the horizon. We are essential workers and for the past 10 months we have been expected to put our boots on and go to work. I thank every brother and sister who continues to partake in this noble cause during these unprecedented times.

There are some large projects coming up in 2021 like the active five year Metro Gold Line, the City of Hope campus expansion project, Queen of the Valley campus expansion project, multiple projects at Mt. San Antonio College and the Whittier Narrows Aquatic Center.

I would personally like to give a shout out to the apprentices in all classifications who have been asked to go the extra mile and take online classes. I know it has not been easy, but your hard work will pay off in the end. Brotherhood and sisterhood begins with involvement and active participation in the local. I want you to know and take pride in the fact that you are the future of our IBEW and you will decide the direction we take. So continue to educate yourselves and strive to become the best brothers/sisters you can be for the greater good of this union. Remember, "your yellow ticket makes you a member, but your actions on the job is what makes you a brother or sister."

## DISTRICT 6

### ORGANIZING REPORT

### Jacob Troncoza

Many jobsites in the district are "mix used" and are being manned by nonunion contractors. We are currently walking these jobsites throughout the district and organizing all electricians. On another note, there are VOC opportunities such as the Thanksgiving Day LA Food Drives that we hosted at our ETI training facility a.k.a. Metro. We also had a food drive with the IBEW "Big BBQ Pit" in the city of Norwalk on Halloween to feed less fortunate families. These were big successes with good volunteer turn out. If you're interested in volunteering for future events, feel free to contact me at (626) 319-8112.

## SOUND & COMMUNICATIONS

### Chuck Webb

OMG, what a year. What a relief to know that we are part of a union, the IBEW. We build what others can only marvel at. Our numbers are growing and our percentage of the work in Los Angeles is growing with that reality. We must continue training, growing our membership, and participating in our union.

If we expect to be considered in the building of our union, we might start with being more active in union events. All our Sound & Communications Unit members should be getting the invitations for the Informational Meetings, General and Unit, on a monthly basis.

There are also District Meetings. You probably live in one of the six districts of Los Angeles County. A map of the District divisions of L.A. County can be found on the Local 11 website homepage. If you click on that slider, you will get information regarding the Inside Wiremen's Agent for that area. From time to time, these Agents hold food drives to help the less fortunate in their area, holiday events, and gatherings to celebrate the union way of life. In the future we plan to have the District/Unit Zoom invites on the website making it easier for all to access. It is amazing what can be learned from some of the "old timers."

Our numbers on the Out of Work books is growing as is typical for the winter months. We are also seeing a few members coming back from the COVID-19 "recess." There are many jobs in the "queue." and we are expecting another year of growth for our industry.

Remember to watch out for your Sisters and Brothers, work safely, follow all health protocols. The future is bright. Stick around and enjoy it.

## Unit 14 Civil Service

### Luis Arida

Sisters and Brothers, I hope this report finds you healthy and in good spirits. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc among our Civil Service members due to a lack of revenue for our public agencies. We must remain vigilant to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

**LAUSD:** The District is implementing mandatory COVID-19 testing for all our members. You must test to work. That is a management right held in the public sector. We have had some issues with the consent forms, but we are working on the language. You do not have to sign the forms, but you must then go to your own provider to take the test. I hope to have more information soon.

**LA County:** The County is still threatening layoffs and is unwilling to negotiate. Fortunately, we recently learned that their fiscal budget is larger than anticipated, which means that we might be able to avoid layoffs altogether.

**LA City:** We have successfully pushed off the furloughs once again. The new date for implementation is January 17, 2021. Of course, we will be negotiating until then and identifying savings for the city so that we can avoid furloughs altogether.

**MOU 35:** I recently received information that the Controller's office is finally processing the sick leave payouts that our members have been patiently waiting for. As soon as I have a hard date, I will let you know.

Lastly, I would like to invite you and your shop to schedule a Zoom meeting with me so that I can hear your concerns directly and as a group. Please feel free to contact me on my cell phone at (626) 712-4769. or email me at arida@ibew11.org.

## CE & CW Report

### Jaime Sanchez

I hope you all are doing well and our prayers are there for all of you. We hope that this pandemic situation gets under control soon. Take good care of your health and the health of your family and stay safe. The holiday season brings thoughts of joy and gratitude and there's no better time to express our thanks and sincere appreciation for your hard work and dedication.

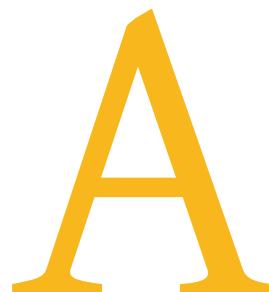
Our union extends our best wishes for a healthy and happy new year to you, your friends and family. As we celebrate in our different ways, we can all be thankful for the solidarity that gives us strength to fight for what is right. May the spirit of our shared belief in justice spread throughout your workplace and across the land and generate peace in our world.

Merry Christmas! I hope you receive one blessing after another in the coming year.



# Veterans: Members of the 11 Family

By Mike Kufchak



s the Director of Veterans Affairs, please allow me to extend to all members, on behalf of our Local 11 Veterans, our most sincere appreciation for your inclusion of us making us truly members of this family.

Below is a poem that I felt fitting for this season that has represented not only our past lives, but also keeps in mind that we have many Reservists within Local 11 who are still on our Nation's watch. Note: I've edited the poem below from its 1987 original version: "Merry Christmas, My Friend: A Soldier's Night Before Christmas."

We extend our blessings to all for a safe and joyous holiday season and a better new year. Fraternally.

## A Veteran's Christmas Poem

By James M. Schmidt, U.S. Veteran

As Santa arrived at a Veterans Home on Christmas Eve,  
he noted that on the wall  
hung pictures of far distant lands.  
Medals and badges, awards of every kind,  
a sobering thought came alive in his mind.  
This house was different, it was dark, it was dreary.  
Santa had found the home of a veteran,  
He could see that most clearly.  
The veteran lay sleeping silent, alone.  
Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.  
His face was so chiseled, room in such order,  
Just how I pictured a U.S. Veteran.  
Was this the hero, of whom he just read?  
Curled up on a poncho, a floor for a bed?  
Out there lies the veterans who are willing to fight.

In the morning around the world, children would play  
Grown-ups would celebrate a bright Christmas day  
But they all enjoyed freedom, each month through the year,  
because of Veterans like the one lying here.

Santa couldn't help but wonder how many lay alone,  
on a cold Christmas Eve, in lands far from home.  
The very thought brought a tear to his eye.  
and he dropped to his knees and started to cry.  
The veteran awakened, and Santa heard his rough voice,  
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice  
We fight for freedom, We don't ask for more.  
Our life is our God and our country.

The veteran then rolled over, and pretended to sleep,  
Santa couldn't control it, and he continued to weep,  
as both of them shivered from the cold night's chill.  
Santa didn't want to leave him on that cold, dark night.  
This guardian of honor, so willing to fight.  
Then the Veteran rolled over with a voice soft and pure.  
He whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day,  
Our Nation is Secure."



# Compliance: New Ways to Work

By Veronica Martinez

O n behalf of the Compliance Department, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year. I saw a funny

Christmas tree ornament a few days ago that read, "2020 sucked, but at least the Dodgers won the World Series and the Lakers won the NBA Championship."

While the year did have its undeniable challenges, I think it also presented the opportunity for different perspectives and new ways to work. This year the entire industry shifted the way we have been conducting pre-jobs. Within a week of the initial stay-at-home order, all public and private entity pre-job meetings went to an online interface platform. And believe it or not, the transition was pretty seamless.

Making a strong presence at the pre-jobs and defending IBEW work is a top priority. For the first time ever, the trades were provided pre-job forms, which identify contractors awarded projects in advance of the pre-job meetings. We have had greater efficiency

vetting awarded contract work and getting ahead of the issues or jurisdictional disputes prior to the meetings.

We have also taken the opportunity to discuss the work with other trades and respectively draw work scope lines because we knew the anticipated assignments in advance. Since March of 2020, we have participated in over 700 pre-jobs online! Thank you to all the agents who have supported the department on days when meetings overlapped, and coverage was needed.

A special thank you to Eric Brown who took the lead in pre-job coverage and our department admin Roxxann who kept us all organized with the abundance of meeting information coming our way daily. I am also never short of thanking our membership for being our eyes and ears on the ground. You keep us going. Our office will always have an open-door policy to listen to and research issues presented.

Lastly, I leave you with what I am most thankful for in 2020 -- not over-committing or extending myself with weekend commitments so that I may enjoy the presence of my family....and the Dodgers winning the World Series.

# Intelligent Transportation: Giving Thanks

By Patrick Owens

S eason's Greetings and Happy Holidays to all! These are certainly trying times, but 2020 will soon pass, and I believe we will all be happy to see it go. Given the extreme challenges we have all faced, my hopes are that 2021 will continue to provide strong employment, good health through safe practices and protocols, and that you and your family will continue to prosper.

I am sure that through all this past year's challenges, you have

realized blessings. Some of the blessings I have realized continue to be a strong work picture, good increases in what has been collectively bargained and a closer bond with my families, both related and fraternal.

I am thankful for the solid, caring, and responsible leadership of the local through the hearts and minds of our Business Manager Joel Barton, President Gaylord "Rusty" Roten, and the Executive Board. They were elected to do a job, and they have!

Please continue to stay safe and let's all continue to look forward for better days. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve your needs as your Business Representative! Peace to all, good will towards you all!

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## ARE YOU GETTING OUR MEETING EMAILS?

The Union sends out notices and reminders each month for regular meetings. If you're not receiving them, contact your district office to make sure they have your current contact information.

Following is the list of regular meetings, unless otherwise noted. Check [www.ibew11.org](http://www.ibew11.org) for updates.

**General Membership Meeting – 3rd Thur of the month**  
**Executive Board Meeting – 3rd Wed of the month**

**District 1 Meetings – 2nd Wed of the month**

**District 2 Meetings – 1st Wed of the month**

**District 3 Meetings – 1st Thur of the month**

**District 4 Meetings – 1st Tue of the month**

**District 5 Meetings – 2nd Tue of the month**

**District 6 Meetings – 4th Wed of the month**

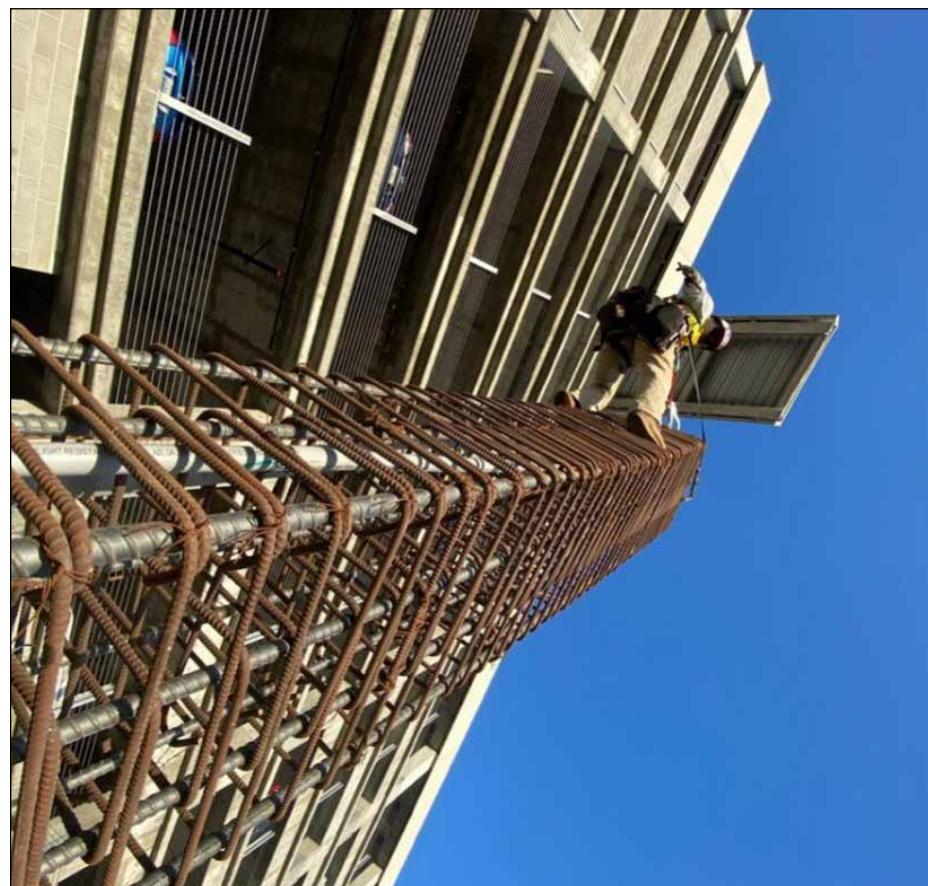
**Unit 14 Meetings – 4th Sat of the month**

**Sound & Communications – 2nd Sat of the month**

**EWMC Meetings – 3rd Sat of the month**

**Retirees Meetings – 2nd Wed of the month**

**CHECK [WWW.IBEW11.ORG](http://WWW.IBEW11.ORG) FOR UPDATES**



### AIRBORNE APPRENTICE!

Local 11 Inside apprentice Mat Boneman is seen running conduit up columns at the LA County Parking Structure. If you have a cool work site photo you would like to see featured on the Local 11 Instagram page, text it to (424) 330-4950

**T**hank you to the over 30 apprentices who have shared their jobsite photos since launching our #IBEW11Apprentice Instagram campaign last month. Check them out on our Instagram page.

We would like to invite IBEW 11 Journeymen to submit pictures as well, as we introduce the

#IBEW11Journeymen campaign. Together, both campaigns will bring awareness to the quality electrical work and craftsmanship our members are producing, and highlight the individuals who make it happen.

Text us your photos to (424) 330-4950 with #IBEW11Apprentice hashtag or direct message us on Instagram.

Be sure to include your name, the jobsite and your classification.



## Thanksgiving Food Drive at ETI

IBEW Local #11 members and staff pitched in to help prepare food at the Thanksgiving Food Drive and distribution event at ETI sponsored by Labor Community Services and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.

### MICHAEL HAWKINS

(Continued from page 3)

**Q:** What do you tell young tradespeople about the union?

**A:** Local 11 has treated me well and has made my life better for the world. The union has given me a living wage so I can afford to live in California. I'm proud to be a member of this local and

that's why I do my best to support the union every way I can.

*Over the next few months, we will be introducing each of your Executive Board members – the men and women who make your union run. Stay tuned.*