



# Skill, Expertise + Craftsmanship

## IBEW 11 at the Torrance Refinery

By Pauline Vu

**O**n an overcast December day, the IBEW Local 11 members employed at the Torrance Refinery were hard at work.

Some were working on a set of elevated laser detection systems, which would analyze the air and detect up to 15 types of gases

or chemicals at the refinery's perimeter.

A larger team was upgrading the alkalization unit's security systems, so that in case of a leak, the diesel water pumps would kick on and all the cameras and fire hoses would automatically know where to point.

The wide array of projects are endless, notes Bill Caskey, an industrial division manager with MB Herzog Electric at the refinery.

"Today they're doing some controls, hooking up a transformer. Tomorrow they'll be back at

grounding. The next day they'll be up overhead working the pole lines," he said. "It's quite a variety of work. Boredom never sets in."

Matthew Muñoz has been at Torrance Refinery for two years. He's a third generation Local 11 member, following in the footsteps of his great-uncle and father, who used to bring Muñoz as a boy to some of his side projects.

Muñoz says before working at the refinery he did a lot of in-wall work. "So you would just bend a conduit and put it up, put up a box, bend a conduit, do repetitive stuff," the foreman said. "It's not my cup of tea."

He noted that refinery work offers plenty of opportunities to engage in his specialty, high-voltage splicing, and also allows him to work on projects where he gets to "actually put my mind to it and figure it out."

"The thing that I like to do most is the overhead," Muñoz added. "I love doing that because you're out in the open, you're up in the air. It seems like you're at peace."

Up until the 1990s, unions had a fairly strong presence at the South Bay refineries. But that decade things started to change, according to Local

*(Continued on page 6)*



**Working on a Deal for VW Charging Stations**

pg **3**



**Highlights from the Annual Picnic**

pg **7**



**The Importance of Safety**

pg **8**

DECEMBER 2019

WWW.IBEW11.ORG

THE NEWSLETTER OF IBEW LOCAL 11

# NEWS @ 11



# BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Joel Barton

## Wishing You All A Prosperous 2020

Sisters and brothers,

**W**elcome to the December IBEW Local 11 newsletter and the final edition for 2019. I hope you've enjoyed the communications and revamped website. With your help, 2019 proved to be a beneficial year. Negotiations for an Inside Wireman's, Intelligent Transportation Systems, Residential and 9th District Sound and Communications Agreement provided substantial increases for those classifications. The work picture is still robust, and 2020 looks to be another banner year. We still have unfilled calls daily which is good and bad. Good because this means a great opportunity for work and economic prosperity for our members. Bad, because the contractors start losing

confidence in the Local Union's ability to provide skilled and trained workers. They stop bidding jobs which will greatly affect our future. For this reason, travel letters still will not be issued. I know some of you are upset as you may want to or have been working out of town for some time. However, my charge is to protect and further the jurisdiction of IBEW Local 11, Los Angeles County. We need to fill all requests for manpower and continue to provide the best workers.

Construction Electricians and Construction Wireman will see contract negotiations start next year. We hope to gain comparable increases to continue your career. I trust most of you have been contacted by Jaime Sanchez, your representative, to get you all on track to progress through this classification. Remember, this is a viable path to Journeyman Wireman status which requires you receive the training and on the job experience to earn that title.

On that note, please continue taking classes to update your skills. This will increase your worth

and help keep you gainfully employed. We also continue to have contract language which requires certificates for all bidders to guarantee proficient installations. You should have already received a list of classes and stipends to entice members to acquire these skills and certifications. Of special consideration is the Industrial Skills Orientation Course. This is to prepare you for the work we've gained in the refineries. With shutdowns, turnarounds and continued maintenance, the shortage of skilled electricians makes this a lucrative endeavor. NFPA 70E is another class critical to the electrician to take and certify.

Convention Center calls are another area in which we have not been able to fulfill manpower requests. The last auto show saw the contractor hire 40 workers off the street just to complete the tear down and move out. Starting with the new year, you will see a separate out of work book for Trade Shows to try and alleviate this problem. We are also meeting with the contractors to develop an MOU which was agreed by the parties to negotiate in the recent Inside Wireman's Agreement.

In closing, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday season with family and friends and a prosperous new year.

*In Solidarity,*  
Joel Barton  
IBEW 11 Business Manager

**Please continue taking classes to update your skills. This will increase your worth and help keep you gainfully employed.**

## IBEW 11's NEWS@11

**President**  
Rusty Roten

**Vice President**  
Jane Templin

**Main offices of IBEW Local 11**

297 North Marengo Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
(626) 243-9700 Phone  
(626) 243-9750 Fax  
[www.ibew11.org](http://www.ibew11.org)

**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
Chuck Webb

**TREASURER**  
Dave Grabowski

**BUSINESS MANAGER/FINANCIAL SECRETARY**  
Joel Barton

**Produced by Senders Communications Group**

**PUBLISHER:** Cherri Senders  
**EDITOR:** Robert Fulton  
**ART DIRECTOR:** Mike Kritzer  
[www.SendersGroup.com](http://www.SendersGroup.com)

# Working on a Deal for VW Charging Stations

In September 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a notice of violation of the Clean Air Act to German automaker Volkswagen Group for deceiving American Consumers by installing software on vehicles designed to cheat State and Federal emission tests. The cars emitted nitrogen oxide pollutants up to 40 times higher than allowed in the US. Volkswagen was sued and, as part of the settlement, agreed to allocate \$800 million dollars in California to install Electrical Vehicle (EV) charging stations and create Green Cities with EV vehicles.

Electrify America, a subsidiary of Volkswagen Group of American, is the company that owns and manages an electric vehicle charging network to offset emissions in the wake of the

Volkswagen emissions scandal. IBEW/NECA began dialogue with Electrify America in October 2017. Simultaneously, IBEW/NECA engaged in a public awareness campaign against Volkswagen America and Electrify America regarding the lack of evidenced compliance to the consent decree.

We are happy to report a partnership was reached between IBEW/NECA and Electrify America in May 2019. This agreement will result in the greater bidding opportunities to IBEW/NECA contractors, work for our members, the required payment of CBA wages and the minimum requisites of EVITP standards for all workers installing the charging stations. It will additionally aid Electrify America in achieving its building objectives and meeting its deadlines.

A key component of this partnership is IBEW/NECA continually working closely



with the executive and project management staff at Electrify America. We continue to meet and openly exchange dialogue and ideas on how to best address the current competitive bidding environment in our industry, project challenges and best practices.

We are happy to report that of the 8 sights currently in construction in LA County, all have been awarded to IBEW/NECA contractors such as Rosendin Electric, Baker Electric and Johnson-Peltier. Electrify America has recently released the second cycle of work out for bid.

## From the President

Brothers and Sisters, as the year 2019 is about to come to a close, I thought I might share with you some information on how the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan is doing and how it's managed.

First, the DC Plans financial manager is Segal Marco Advisors. Segal Marco Advisors make recommendations to the pension trustee's as to which investment managers we should invest with and what varieties of investment "disciplines" we should pursue.

John Hancock is a company that is hired to keep daily valuation of each participants DC plan amount and provide internet access to you and keep it secure.

For the year 2019, the current year-to-date return through September is 11.9% which puts the 10-year return average at 7.4%. It also puts the average rate of return going back to its start date (1/1/1994) at 6.9%.



The recession "knocked" the plan back pretty hard. But it's been gaining back its value in a very steady manor. 2018 was not a good investment performance year but overall the plan has done very well over 10 years.

If you have any questions about your pension benefits, please contact the pension trust. They can answer your personal and general overall questions more accurately.

Please have a safe and happy holiday season and thank you for the privilege to serve you all.

*In Solidarity,  
Rusty Roten*

## Political Director's Report

By Antonio Sanchez

The California Labor Federation recently released their 2019 legislative scorecard and there are a few LA County notables on the list.

State Senators Maria Elena Durazo, Lena Gonzalez, Connie Leyva, Holly Mitchell, Anthony Portantino, and Henry Stern all earned a 100% labor voting record.

Assemblymembers Miguel Santiago, Ian Calderon, Ed Chau, Laura Friedman, Chris Holden, Reggie Jones-Sawyer, and Speaker Anthony Rendon also made the 100% labor voting record mark. Their work and values are appreciated!

Collectively, the Building Trades did well in Sacramento. The legislature passed legislation that put a multi-billion dollar school construction bond on the ballot, expanded PLAs, and made it easier for us to fight the misclassification of workers. You probably heard that Governor Newsom vetoed a bill that would have required charter

schools that use conduit-bond financing to pay prevailing wage for their construction projects. His action was disappointing and not the right thing to do. If a charter school gets a public benefit by using conduit-bond financing, then the construction workers should get paid prevailing wage. We're not done with this issue, more to come, I'm sure.

The 2020 Census will be here in no time. IBEW Local 11 will have an active campaign to encourage every member to participate in the Census because it's critical that everyone be counted.

The March 2020 election is shaping up to be very interesting – we will send our list of endorsements soon enough.

Finally – who do you want to vote for US President? Send me an email and let me know, I always like hearing your thoughts.

[sanchez@ibew11.org](mailto:sanchez@ibew11.org)

I wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Please remember that there is no shame in asking for help when you're experiencing stress, anxiety or depression.

**DISTRICT 3**  
**Mike Costigan**

Another year is in the rearview mirror, and what a year it was. The work picture was the best I've ever seen, and next year is setting up not to disappoint as well. In District 3, the airport will be bringing the most work with the Automated People Mover [APM], Consolidated Rental Car [ConRac], and a new LAWA Police Station. The Mid Field Satellite Concourse and Rams Stadium are going to be winding down next year, but with the previous mentioned projects as well as other projects throughout Los Angeles County, there will be plenty of work for all our members.

I want to make special mention of a member in District 3. Ormond Brown. Ormond took a position off the Journeyman wireman book for the ETI a couple of years ago and has made a great positive impact in that position. As well as serving the ETI, he was a Head Teller for last year's election, joined the District 3 Welfare Committee, is the new Recording Secretary for the District 3 Unit meetings and represented District 3 for the allocation committee. He is also constantly talking about increasing "Fellowship" amongst the membership. In my humble opinion, Ormond is what all union members should aspire to be.

I also want to give special thanks to all the stewards out there doing what can sometimes be a thankless job. I want to especially thank the stewards in District 3. Mike Arvahi and JJ Talamantes at the stadium, Miguel Angeles at the LAX MSC, Rafael Naranjo at Chevron, King Moore at Facebook, and Marvin LaBrie on the LAX/Crenshaw Metro Project. If you think your job could use a steward, think about stepping up, and reach out to that districts Business Rep.

And finally, I encourage every member to do their best to get to a meeting. General or unit. Stay informed. Stay engaged. Like most organizations, the more you're involved, the more you get out of it. And the IBEW is no different.

**SOUND & COMMUNICATIONS**  
**Chuck Webb**

The end of the year is a time to look back, just so you can see the ground that you have covered. The beginning is not so far back for the Barton staff. We came into office in July of 2018 determined to pay attention to the needs of our Sound & Communications Division. We have tried to be more inclusive of all our members and we have witnessed the continued growth in participation in the Unit. Through the hard work of our Organizer, Christine Austria-Lozoya, we have seen a 50% growth of the Sound & Communication Unit with almost 800 members and another almost 300 travelers working in our jurisdiction. By the end of August 2019, we have reported more than 1.1 million hours of Sound & Communications work in our jurisdiction for the year. These are numbers to be proud of. The numbers needed in the future, however, the

members to be added to our roles, will have to double what we are experiencing at this time. Our future is bright here in Los Angeles, make sure that you are a proud participant of the Unit.

The Sound & Communications Unit Holiday Luncheon was a smashing success with 100 members participating. Hopefully you were one of the lucky members that won one of the 3 tv's that were raffled off with all of the other prizes supplied by the S&C Welfare Committee and Local 11. Hopefully you enjoyed the luncheon and the fellowship with your Brothers & Sisters and are now looking forward to the new year.

We, the staff of Local 11, want to wish all our Sisters & Brothers the very best in this holiday season!!!

*Work Safe, Play Hard*

**DISTRICT 5**  
**Mitch Klein**

As the New Year approaches, we will see work picking up in the High Desert with our community workforce agreements at Antelope Valley College, the Palmdale School District, the Antelope Valley Transit Authority etc. We will also have work coming from the defense plants, Kaiser facilities and solar. Monday, December 16 we will be attending a Palmdale Water District Directors meeting to secure and renew our Community Workforce Agreement.

With the start of the New Year also brings political action. There are many political races we will be involved with including Lancaster City Council, the 36th Assembly seat, the 17th District Senate seat and the 25th Congressional seat any help we can get would be greatly appreciated. Remember Brothers and Sisters, through politics creates jobs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Officers that have worked so hard

throughout the year to make District 5 the great District that it is today; Chairman Alfredo Torres, Vice Chairman Adalberto Gonzales, Recording Secretary King Moore (also Lancaster Planning Commissioner), Officers Mike Kaminski, Luis Martinez, Dion Jensen, George Martinez and Edgar Ico. I would also like to thank the following Members and their families for their hard work: Alex & Rosie Landa, Ronald & Lorina Dreiling, Danny Walters, Jackie Torres, Miguel & Anthony Sanchez, Romeo Gonzalez, Dalton Young, Miguel Ramos, Ian Gibson, Crystal Smith Trulaina Price, and Steve Joyner. I would like to give a special shout out to our Business Manager Joel Barton, President Rusty Roten, Organizer Alton Wilkerson, Business Representative Kris Mendoza and Administrative Assistant Cari Bailey.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday season.

**Celebrating 20 Years**

Alex and Jesse Cadena celebrated 20-years with IBEW 11.



**Apprentice of the Month**

Kevin Cline was named the IBEW 11 Apprentice of the Month in November. Pictured, from left: IBEW 11 President Rusty Roten, EWMC President Deon Mayes, Kevin Cline and IBEW 11 Business Manager Joel Barton.



## UNIT 15 Kristian Mendoza

On November 8th we had a great turn out for the 3rd Veterans BBQ for our Veterans at Kinkisharyo. This year it was attended by Palmdale Mayor Steve Hofbauer, 50 plus members, and IBEW Local 11 staff. Unfortunately, work at Kinkisharyo is dwindling down as the last train from the P3010 contract nears completion. We are down to about 150 members presently from the 450 at our highest point. By early 2020 will be down to a skeleton crew as the company tries to secure another contract to keep the remaining members working. Many of our members are transitioning to BYD and Lockheed and will luckily be able to stay local.

After 9 long months of negotiations we reached an agreement on a contract with Covanta Long Beach. The members from Covanta



were able to secure affordable health, a wage increase for all union employees with retro pay back to January, as well as a significant increase in the company's contribution to their 401k benefits. Thank you to the negotiation committee Valentino Spaleta and Teresa

Rodriguez. They were a vital part of the negotiation process and both brought invaluable knowledge to the table. We are now working with the company to make sure our members have a safe work environment to work in and making sure that our CBA is followed.

## RETIREEE

### IBEW Local 11 Retiree's Club 2020 Meeting Schedule

Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month

10:00 AM	Jan 08	Regular Meeting	@ETI	10:00 AM	July 08	Regular Meeting	@ETI	Executive/Board of Directors meeting to be announced typically held in January, May and November.
10:00 AM	Feb 12	Regular Meeting	@ETI	10:00 AM	Aug 12	Regular Meeting	@ETI	
10:00 AM	Mar 11	Regular Meeting	@ETI	10:00 AM	Sept 09	Regular Meeting	@ETI	
10:00 AM	Apr 08	Regular Meeting	@ETI	10:00 AM	Oct 14	Regular Meeting	@ETI	
10:00 AM	May 13	Regular Meeting	@ETI	10:00 AM	Nov 11	Regular Meeting	@ETI	
11:00 AM	June 10	Summer Luncheon	@ETI/TBA	11:30 AM	Dec 09	Holiday Party	@TBA	Request Additional Info E-mail: <a href="mailto:RetireesClubIBEW11@gmail.com">RetireesClubIBEW11@gmail.com</a>



The Retiree's Club was in the spirit of the season at the annual holiday luncheon.

## Celebrating 25 Years

Donald McDonald received his 25-year pin. Congratulations!



IBEW 11 Recognized by State Senate, City of San Fernando; IBEW 11 was recognized by the State of California Senate and the City of San Fernando for its work with the City of San Fernando's 2019 National Night Out.

# REFINERY

Continued from the cover

11 organizer Tommy Faavae.

“You were starting to get a lot of non-union contractors coming from out of state,” he said. “A lot of these parking lots back in those days, all you saw were out-of-state plates—Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas.”

The tide turned again in 2014 after California passed SB 54, which requires that refineries ensure 60 percent of their contractors’ workers are journeymen who have completed a state or federally approved apprenticeship program.

That spurred the five South Bay refineries—Torrance, Chevron in El Segundo, Marathon in Carson, and Phillips 66 and Valero in Wilmington—to sign project labor agreements in recent years that have dramatically boosted the numbers of union contractors on their campuses.

“The non-union (contractors) had a stronghold for a long time so it’s taken a few years to get the owners’ confidence in us doing their work,” Caskey said. “But one good job at a time—they see it.”

Faavae said Local 11 also

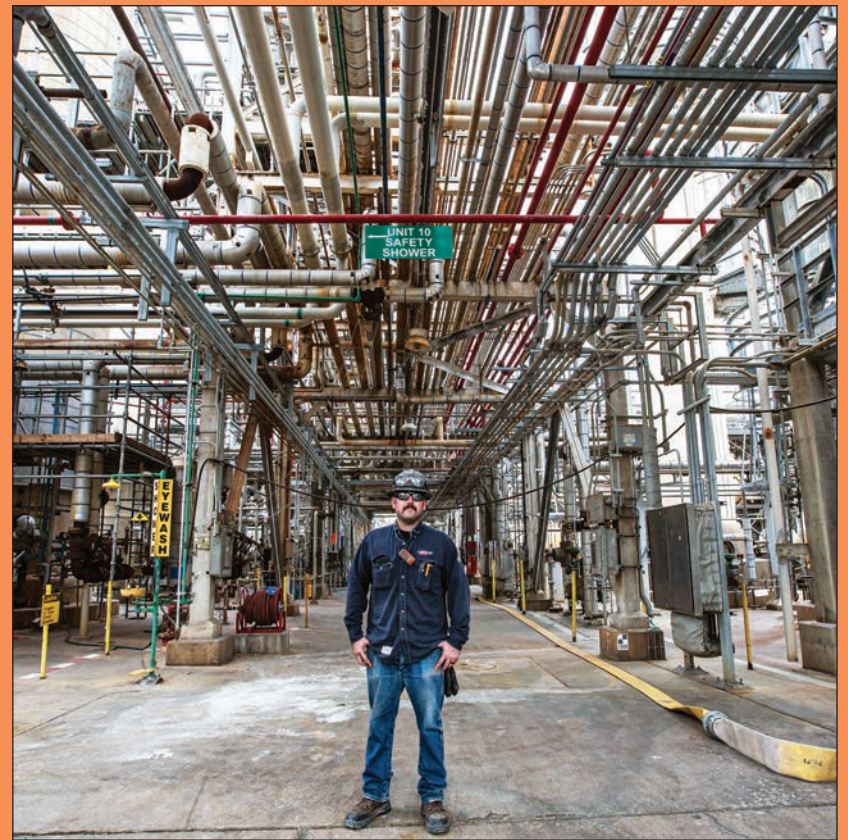
undertook an organizing campaign that converted many non-union contractors to become union. He estimates there are now about 500 members working at the South Bay refineries, a huge increase from five years ago.

It helped that the work performed by union members was so consistently safe. Caskey, who has been at Torrance since 2005, said union members there have gone 15 years without a reportable.

Non-union contractors didn’t manage to achieve that, he added: “The craftsmanship literally went downhill so far that it became evident that good quality work done right the first time is paramount.”

Foreman Derek Stromberg noted that skill and expertise are some of Local 11’s key strengths. “We get busy out here and we can make the call in, and we always get quality guys out of the hall,” he said.

Refinery work tends to be more heavy duty than commercial work. Pointing to a fiber optic termination box, Stromberg said that in a commercial job, it would just be a box. But in the refinery, the box



is made of cast iron and bolted. “So that if anything exploded the components inside the box would still be intact,” he said.

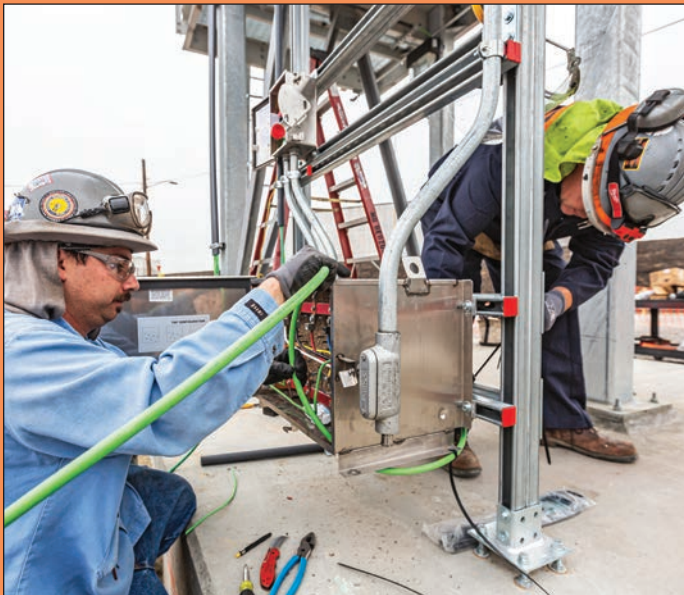
Torrance Refinery is apprentice Matt Brakensiek’s first job. When asked what his favorite part of

the work was, he said it was the brotherhood.

“People that are here ahead of me, the journeymen, they’re always looking to teach you, make you better,” he said. “It’s a great trade and it’s always going to be here.”



PHOTOS BY TED SOQUI



# Member Picnic 2019

Members of IBEW 11 and their families enjoyed the Annual Union Picnic at Hollywood Sports Park in Bellflower at the End of September. Visit [www.ibew11.org](http://www.ibew11.org) for more photos.

PHOTOS BY TED SOQUI



PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HUNT. BCH CA  
PERMIT #438

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 District 3 Meeting	3	4
5	6	7 District 4 Meeting	8 District 1 District 2 Retiree's Club	9 Empowering Meeting	10	11 Sound & Comms. Meeting
12	13	14 District 5 Unit Meeting	15 Executive Board Meeting	16 RENEW General Meeting	17	18 EWMC Meeting
19	20	21	22 District 6 Meeting	23 Unit 14/ Civil Service Meeting	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## ETI Hosts Annual Labor 411 BBQ, County Fed House of Labor Meeting

The Electrical Training Institute's parking lot recently played host to Labor 411's BBQ and Trade Show. The 11th annual event featured dozens of vendors, food, music and a raffle. The BBQ took place prior to the Los Angeles Federation of Labor's monthly House of Labor meeting.

IBEW 11 grillmaster Mario Barragan joined IBEW 47 brother Rick Garcia to prepare tacos served by a team from Unite Here! Local 11.

"This is the biggest BBQ we've held in our 11 years of doing this," said Cherri Senders, President of Labor 411. "We are grateful to the Electrical Training Institute for offering this amazing space, and to the talented and professional team at ETI for helping us pull this off. We couldn't have done it without them."

Approximately 500 House of Labor delegates were in attendance as Teamster Local 396 Secretary-Treasurer Ron Herrera was sworn in as the LA Fed's newly elected President

"There's a fire in the hearts of L.A.'s workers that can transform our city if we listen to them and we let them lead," Herrera said. "I'm honored and humbled to serve the people who give this city everything it has. Together, let's build an inclusive, innovative labor movement for all workers."

Labor 411 is committed to building a national Buy Union, Buy American movement as a means of improving the safety and economic well-being of union workers and their families.



The organization works to educate and empower consumers to make ethical choices and flex their purchasing power to support companies that support good jobs.

A one-stop resource for people who want to buy union-made goods and services, Labor 411's print and online directory provides greater visibility to union-made goods and services and helps union decision makers ensure that their dollars and their values are connecting with the community at large. Reaching union officers and



staff, union-friendly vendors and friends of organized labor around the county, Labor 411's print and online directories strive to make an impact one purchase at a time.

#1 Directory for Union-Made Goods and Services

## Labor 411

LOS ANGELES

11th Edition

11,001 LISTINGS

From Aspirin to Zinfandel to Fabulous Hotels

www.Labor411.org

## SAFETY

Back before the IBEW was founded, 1 out of 2 electricians were killed on the job. Henry Miller and 9 others decided they needed to do something about this. Our IBEW was founded on safety. Today safety is still the most important part of working. With the large amount work and constantly bringing in new members it is extremely

important that we mentor the new members. If we do this, we are truly "our brother and sister's keeper." Please take the time to look after each other. When you look out for other people safety, your safety increases because you are more aware. Don't have the regret of knowing you saw something unsafe and didn't do anything. Don't wait for someone to get hurt.

### Accidents ARE Preventable

- NO job is so urgent we cannot take time to make the job site safe.
- NO job is so urgent we cannot take time to think.
- NO job is so urgent we cannot use our safety procedures & policies.
- NO job is so urgent we cannot take the time to wear our proper PPE.
- NO job is so urgent that we take shortcuts.
- NO job is worth NEVER seeing your loved ones AGAIN.

Any safety issues or concerns please contact:  
Bro. Ivan DeHerrera, Jr.  
Assistant Business Manager  
Director of Safety  
626-660-9479  
deherrera@ibew11.org