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THE NEWSLETTER OF IBEW LOCAL 11

NEWS @ 11



PHOTO BY TED SOQUI

The mixed-use development at 5420 Sunset provides many challenges, opportunities for members.

Lighting the Way: Hollywood Development Brings Big Opportunities

Members of IBEW Local 11 are enjoying demonstrating their skills at a mixed-use complex that is taking shape at the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Western Avenue in Hollywood.

What makes the project at 5420 Sunset Blvd. unique is the residential portion of the mixed-use building: Union electricians haven't been seen on residential jobsites as frequently as industrial or commercial. If the Hollywood project is any indication, that's

starting to change.

"This is fantastic," said District 1 Business Agent Zac Solomon. "This is the beginning of us getting all of our work back. All aspects of electrical work should be done union. The fact that we can bid these projects and

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Wiring a Better Future: How Hard Work Lifted John Martin to New Heights

By Robert Fulton

For the past 19 years, IBEW Local 11 has been more than a career path for one dedicated member: It has been a lifeline.

"It was the best decision of my life," said John Martin about joining IBEW Local 11.

Since joining Local 11 nearly 20 years ago, Martin has gone from a troubled past to become the General Superintendent for CSI Electrical Contractors, overseeing hundreds of workers

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BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Robert Corona

2025 Shaping Up to be Promising Year

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Happy New Year! I hope everyone is safe and sound from these devastating winds and fires that have been sweeping the Southland these past few days.

It's been very unnerving hearing about electrical blackouts randomly affecting various pockets of Los Angeles. In fact, we had to close our Pasadena headquarters early this week due to air quality and possible evacuation orders. And finally, our thoughts and prayers go out to our brothers and sisters devastated by the raging fires on the Westside and in Altadena and other regions that may be popping up. We hope everyone has a home to go back to tonight and that their families are safe.

On the job front, 2025 is already shaping up to be a promising and busy year with many projects coming online across Southern California. The convention center remodel will be starting this year, with calls going out for some of

our members over the coming months. California voters just passed Prop. 4, which includes a \$900 million allocation for clean energy projects, including EV charging stations, rooftop solar and battery storage facilities.

School bond construction and upgrades like Hamilton High, continue, see the article on page 3 of this issue. Hospital construction and renovations continues around the Southland. And with the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics coming to Los Angeles, expect additional job calls in the halls to ramp up for those major events.

Other big news are plans for IBEW-sponsored Pathway Initiative legislation to allow California to work with regional authorities in other states to build out a Western grid to increase our energy markets.

Our Political Lifeblood

On the political front, make no mistake. The Presidential election was not what we had hoped, but we will learn to navigate the rough seas ahead for labor unions. We know the incoming president is no friend of unions, and may try to claw back some of our wins, so be prepared to join us in our fight to keep many of our hard-fought rights. Stay tuned.

There's better news at the state

level where we notched some impressive wins. We look forward to welcoming the 37 newly elected representatives in Sacramento and we have a full legislative agenda to match. Our Electrical State Association – CSAEW – is on full alert and has a full agenda mapped out to protect our work, and provide more jobs for our members.

No More Stigma

Now that the holidays are behind us, I want to call attention to IBEW 11's ongoing focus on mental health for our members. Long gone are the days when mental health concerns were something to hide. Our terrific health plan has mental health options for members.

We all have issues that we could use a professional to help guide us. There is an alarming number of suicides among our brothers and sisters in construction, and we will do all we can to prevent that. In 2022 alone, 6,000 construction workers died by suicide, eclipsing the 1,000 or so who died from work-related injuries. See our Safety Director's column on resources for addiction and mental health issues **here**: or sign in to Optum with your User name and Password **here**. Access code is SCIBEW. We have also restarted our Recovery Group Meetings hosted by Business

Agent Zachary Solomon. Our next meeting will be held on January 29th at our South Bay Hall location, see the flyer **here**.

And if you need help immediately with a mental health crisis, call or text 988.

New apprenticeship classes will be starting soon for Inside, ITS and Sound & Communications classifications. The two week Bootcamp will also be starting soon.

We want to encourage our members to use our new IBEW 11 App. You can find it in the Apple, Google and Android App Store on your phone. Our new app will give us better ways to communicate with you quickly and efficiently, especially on the worksites. We aim to meet you where you live. Take a look and let us know if you have any suggestions.

And in more good news, the DIRE ECU application backlog has eased. It's now down to a six week turnaround. If you are still having issues, please reach out to our Compliance Department in Pasadena.

Stay safe out there. As always, I am honored to be your Business Manager/ Financial Secretary. My door is always open.

*In Solidarity,
Robert Corona
Business Manager*

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Kicking 2025 Into High Gear



Happy new year everyone, I hope the holidays were good to you and your families.

As the New Year starts, it's time to kick it into gear. With the recent interest rate cuts, we are hopeful that this will help us in our efforts to create more work for our members. Your staff is continuously working hard to fight for more work within our jurisdiction, whether it be through pushing for legislation for our members, or at city council meetings urging

politicians to approve project labor agreements or community workforce agreements in our area.

Politics are an integral part of the labor movement when it comes to jobs for our membership. Regardless if you like politics or not, it is necessary in our line of work to be politically active as union members. We are always looking for members to aid our efforts in this area.

Please attend your unit meetings and speak with your local business agent to let them know you're willing to volunteer when the time comes. If you need to know when

your unit meeting is, please look at the calendar on the local's website IBEW11.org.

And finally, if you have committed to a New Year's resolution to get in better shape this year, please look into our options with our health plan. I've mentioned one in the past called Betr Health, which has helped me tremendously. Feel free to reach out to the health trust for more information on this program, or I can give you some information from my experience with it.

As always, it is a pleasure to

serve our membership. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out.

In solidarity,
Alton Wilkerson
#7646570
President
Director of Organizing
Senior Assistant Business Manager

Hamilton High School

Our visit to Hamilton High was extremely productive, thanks to the leadership of Scott Spaulding, a 3rd generation local 11 Inside Wireman and general foreman for Taft Electric. Business agent Mike Costigan met with members and toured the site. The interaction with the members was revitalizing and refreshing as always. Stay tuned for a job site visit near you.



DISTRICT 2
Gary Tomlin

My Brothers and Sisters,

The year 2025 is upon us, and I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with family and friends.

We combined District 1 and 2 this year for the annual District 2 Holiday party, and it was a tremendous success! We had roughly 400 members, family and friends in attendance. The arcade was a huge hit for the kids (both small and big).

The work picture in D2 is still a little slow but expected for this time of year.

With the National elections being over, the interest rates being cut twice last year and supposed to be cut again this year, along with all the bonds passed for school work, we should start to see the work coming in.

Inglewood High School will receive \$175 million from the bonds passed for a renovation project.

Marathon and Valero are both in turn-arounds right now. If you do not have your RSO and TWIC, get them as all refineries require them. These costs are reimbursed along with a stipend from Local 11.

DISTRICT 4
Brett Moss

Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings from District Four. I hope this report finds you and your families well.

A HUGE Thank you to all the members and their families that donated blood for our drive in December. We had a record number of units collected. Our next blood drive will be March 4, 2025. Please contact me to get signed up. D4 blood drives benefit Children's Hospital LA.

On the same night as our blood drive we had our D4 Holiday Meeting/Party. It was great to see so many members and their families.

Work in the area is still slow, but we are seeing a steady increase in calls, and many are going deep into Book 1.

A reminder, D4 unit meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month at 5pm at the D4 Hall, please join us. The D4 welfare committee meets the last Tuesday of each month at the D4 Hall, if you need assistance, please contact me.

Stay safe and be well. Always feel free to reach out via email, phone or text.

In solidarity.

DISTRICT 6
Tommy Zielomski

Greetings and happy new year to all.

As we bring in the new year, I hope everyone had a great holiday season and took time to be with loved ones.

Although the work picture remained slow in 2024, we anticipate 2025 being a much busier year in Local 11. We did get some school construction and renovation bonds in our area passed in November. Pomona USD, Pasadena USD, Mt SAC, and El Monte City School District will receive millions of dollars in bond money which translates to jobs for our members.

District 6 has been taking sign ups for LAQSP and the Foremanship classes to be held in Diamond Bar at District 6 hall. We have LAQSP scheduled for January 11th, 12th, 25th and 26th. If you're interested in taking one of the classes here, you can come in person or call the D6 office to be put on the list.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

CE/CW
Jackie Waltman

Hi Everyone,

Please make sure that you are keeping up with your classes/education to keep your ET

card valid. Don't wait until the last minute to renew it.

Remember to make yourself available on the daybook each day you want to take a job call. This must be done by 8 a.m. in the dispatch halls or online.

If there is any CE2 with a State Certification please sign up for the Foreman class at the ETI. Please reach out to me if you need help with getting your State Certification, I have a step by step on what you need to do.

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

It is an honor to represent you. As always, please contact me if you need any assistance. Remember to look out for one another and to be safe out there.

SOUND & COMMUNICATIONS
Deon Mayes

First, a heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended Unit 9's holiday party. With approximately 100 people in attendance, it was a wonderful event, and we're grateful to the planning committee and volunteers for their efforts in making the gathering a success.

Several contractors have signed subscription agreements for projects within our jurisdiction, many involving local school district projects. These opportunities will provide valuable work for our members throughout the year. While some of these contractors may not be as familiar with our CBA, we are actively monitoring these projects and working closely with them to ensure a smooth transition. If you encounter any issues, please report them to a Business Rep right away. Although these contractors aren't fully signatory yet, our organizing team is diligently working to bring them on board. Your professionalism and productivity will help showcase for these employers the value they can expect when utilizing our workforce.

20-Year Pin



At last month's District 1 meeting, Business Manager Robert Corona presented Brother Samuel Braccery with his pin in recognition of 20 years of service with IBEW Local 11.

COMPLIANCE REPORT

Good News: Electrical Certification Unit Update

By Veronica Martinez

I'm happy to report that the Department of Industrial Relations Electrical Certification Unit (ECU) has recently informed us that they have hired and relocated additional staff to support the (ECU) application and certification efforts. This has resulted in application processing times returning to six weeks.

We have observed some ECU growing pains due to the new staff's learning curve. We continue to advise members that if you experience some hiccups in processing new applications, renewals, or securing cards beyond the normal 6 to 8-week waiting period, please get in touch with me at martinez@ibew.org.

DISTRICT 2
Myra Hildreth

Happy New Year, Brother and Sisters!
I hope everyone enjoys the holidays. As we celebrate the beginning of a new year, we can reflect on the past year and make resolutions for the year ahead.

Organizing continued job walks at Non-Union job sites. Non-union electricians' interest in joining IBEW Local 11 continues throughout the district, and we are supporting them through the process to help them access better training, wages, benefits, and retirement opportunities.

The organizing department recently attended a meeting supporting a Charter School called Future Is Now CTE Prep; we spoke to the LAUSD Board of Members about how this charter school will help hundreds of high schoolers in Los Angeles learn trades.

If you're out of work and interested in salting, please get in touch with any district organizers or call the organizing department.

DISTRICT 4
Ruben Mendoza

Greetings from District 4,

This past month I had the privilege to join EWMC and help with the Day of Service which consisted of giving away clothes and hygiene packets to the Homeless in Skid Row. I also joined the LA FED, alongside other unions from the Building Trades who gave away over 1000 turkeys to families in need.

Brothers and Sisters, it is/was a great feeling giving back to those less fortunate during the Holidays. I encourage you to get involved and

join us next year, at any of the events we have planned during the holidays.

Wishing you and your families a great holiday season.

DISTRICT 6
Chris Rosales

Happy New Year's Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everybody had a great holiday season. As we project a significant increase in local 11's work picture, there is no better time to be an IBEW LOCAL 11 member.

Being an organizer for Local 11 involves many different aspects that go beyond the recruitment of non-union electrical workers. Political involvement is a critical aspect of an organizer's role. The decisions made at local government level can significantly impact the local's work picture. Participation in city council meetings allows organizers to voice the concerns of their members, address issues such as workplace safety regulations, and promote fair labor practices.

By presenting well researched arguments and arranging community support, organizers can influence measures and bonds put into place by legislation. By collaborating with local leaders and policymakers, organizers can assist to develop initiatives that promote job creation and workforce development.

A big thank you to the Brothers and Sisters that attended the D6 Holiday party!

CONTRACTOR ORGANIZER
Benjamin Frank

As we start 2025, we're excited to welcome new contractors joining us this year. Our work

continues as we engage with contractors daily, helping them understand how our membership can support their success.

When a new contractor joins our team, let's extend them patience, gratitude, and a warm welcome showing them firsthand why we stand out as the best in the industry.

I also want to remind everyone that I'm always available to discuss your aspirations as a contractor. While our formal class is held annually, I'm here year-round to meet with you, answer questions, and support you in pursuing your dreams. Don't hesitate to reach out!

SOUND & COMMUNICATIONS
Citlali Castillo

Happy New Year Sound & Comm!

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with their families. We are starting 2025 right by reminding our members what we do as organizers. We go to non-union jobsites and spread the union word to all the non-represented electrical workers out there.

We organize new members that have years of experience doing our various scopes of electrical work. With the help of our members, we can continue in these efforts. If there is a job site, you come across or working alongside an unrepresented worker call the organizing department and we will hit that job or talk to anyone willing to know the great benefits of being a union member.

With that said, also reminding our members to pay your dues, get those certifications and to stay informed all year download the IBEW Local 11 App!

Retirees Christmas Luncheon



Last month, the distinguished retirees held their annual Christmas luncheon, joined by Business Manager Robert Corona. The event featured great food and the enjoyable company of great people and their families.

JOBSITE VISIT

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bring our journeymen and our apprentices to get the experience on a job like this doing wood frame makes us more powerful and makes the contractors more confident that they can bid this type of work and get it done.”

The project at Sunset and Western started taking shape in December, with wood framing looming over the street. The site was once a shopping center anchored by Food4Less grocery store. It will ultimately become 735 studio, one-, and two-bedroom high-end apartments atop 95,000 square feet of commercial space and parking.

The development, across the street from a newer Target location, will raise six stories and include Whole Foods and Sephora, among other retailers. It is expected to be completed in early 2026.

Dozens of union electricians are on site working for SBE Electrical Contractors.

Permanent power is expected to be up and running by June.

Ron Hoch is the temporary power foreman, working on 45 electrical rooms and 50 transformers.

“The fact that the distribution here is medium voltage, a lot of jobs like this, we don’t normally have medium voltage,” Hoch said. “We don’t normally have so many transformers on a jobsite.”

Apprentice Noah Sparn has taken advantage of the various tasks on the project to sharpen his skills.

“There’s a vast amount of different types of work you can do here,” said Sparn, a fourth-generation electrician. “I’ve done everything from deck work to underground, temp power, and now I’m working on the single line crew. We’ve done some branch stuff up here in the units. So, a lot of different work.”

Michael Taylor is part of the SBE low voltage team. During a recent visit, he was working on cameras and speakers while teammates tackled alarms, sprinklers and more.

“Pretty much, we’re touching on everything,” Taylor said. “We’re



touching every aspect of sound and communication.”

Keith Huckabee is a foreman on the 5420 Sunset job. He discussed the nuances between residential and other installs.

“Wire is wire, but installation is a little different, and steps in installation, there are variables everywhere, Huckabee said.

Instead of having teams of two do everything to each individual residential unit, Huckabee has set up a production line approach. One lays out the electrical, the next

installs the box and the third does the rope. A single unit can take anywhere from six to eight hours and upwards of 10 hours for the larger apartments.

Apartment at a time, story at a time, the job is getting done with union electricians.

“Our guys are going to get this done in the same amount of time that the non-union gets it done with a higher standard, higher quality, higher safety and better pay for all its workers,” Solomon said.

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Spreading Holiday Cheer: Local 11's 2025 Toy Drive



IBEW 11 staff and members collaborated to prepare and distribute toys to apprentices and their families.

JOBSITE VISIT

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PHOTOS BY TED SOQUI



Members Speak Out



"I love all the great things that we all love about our union, plus the protection of our labor rights. We see on a lot of these jobsites a lot of nonunion employees, and you see the comparison of how we take care of our guys versus how the non-union does things. You see a lot of guys, for example, who walk around without PPE. We care about safety. We care about the members."

— **RON HOCH**
FOREMAN
7-YEAR MEMBER



"Before I started, I was non-union. I got in and did the apprenticeship program and then turned out. Ever since then, I've been with them."

— **EFRAIM MORENO**
JOURNEYMAN
22-YEAR MEMBER



"This is what my dad did; this is what my grandfather did, my great grandfather. I'm fourth generation. I'm just carrying on the family tradition."

— **NOAH SPARN**
APPRENTICE



"What has it not done for me? It's a long list. I love the experience. "The safety procedures are more strenuous here at a union setting versus a non-union, where it's kind of doing whatever you want to do to get the job done. Here, it's safety first before you do your job."

— **ANTHONY LEWIS**
LOW VOLTAGE
20-YEAR MEMBER



"I love it. The brotherhood, the pay rate, the benefits. I love it. The security that you get from having the union behind you on certain issues that you face. I like it."

— **MICHAEL TAYLOR**
4-YEAR MEMBER



"I had a journeyman tell me when I first got in, you're not going to learn everything there is about electricity. It's true. There's always something new to learn. "The union's been there. They've always found me a job when I got laid off. They really look out for the members."

— **KIETH HUCKABEE**
FOREMAN
30-YEAR MEMBER

MARTIN

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and tens of millions of dollars in projects. He hopes his story inspires others.

Martin grew up in Torrance. First was the foster system, then the juvenile justice system, then more than 11 years in prison. Gangs, drugs and “making horrible decisions,” Martin shared.

“I had to fight that fight, not to be a statistic and beat the odds,” he said. Despite the obstacles, he found a way out of the cycle of hardship and into a life of purpose.

A turning point for Martin came, naturally, on a jobsite. His stepfather got him a non-union job working

concrete. At a jobsite, Martin observed electricians and decided to pursue an education in the trade. He enrolled in Long Beach City College’s electrical program.

Initially working on non-union jobs, Martin was soon organized into IBEW 11. He liked the sound of good pay, benefits, a pension and a brotherhood.

“It was just very enticing to have that,” Martin said.

Martin entered Local 11 as an apprentice with three years of experience. Since joining IBEW Local 11, his career has flourished. Starting as an apprentice with CSI Electrical Contractors, Martin has steadily climbed the ranks: journeyman, foreman, general foreman, site superintendent, and now General Superintendent. Today, he oversees four superintendents, 265 electricians and multi-million dollar projects. His projects include the Intuit Dome, UC Irvine Hospital, the Burbank Airport expansion and the Colburn School of Performing Arts.

“Altogether, it’s just been the best decision that I could have made,” Martin said. “Just the knowledge that the union provides with our electrical field, it’s second to none. You feel confident going into any job due to the training, the capacity of the work that we do, how we’re always engaged to the newest stuff, the best projects, the landmarks that we do, it’s just training that you can’t get nowhere else.”

With a union paycheck and benefits, Martin’s wife was able to



quit her job and return to school full-time to become a registered nurse. The couple purchased a home in Hacienda Heights, where they’re raising their four children.

“My kids see how successful I became and now that drives them to not settle,” Martin said. “They’ve seen what mom and dad have done, so they know that hard work pays.”

Considering his past, Martin struggled to find his place in the workforce. He soon learned that what you do on the job matters most to the union.

“Out here, it’s performance-based,” he said. “If you do a good job, you work hard, you show up every day, you can live a long time in this union. They give you all the right tools; they teach you. It’s just

been a great journey. It’s been something great for my family.

“If you wanted to work, and you worked hard and you showed up every day, you were employed, you were good,” Martin added.

Martin has a clear message for those struggling to right past wrongs and find direction in their lives.

“They have a chance to make it right, that they’re not bound by tattoos and records,” Martin said. “They’re bound by performance and grit and how hard you work and work well with others, and how you carry yourself.”

“If I can change one person’s mind to say, ‘Hey, you can do it. Don’t let your record or your tattoos be your handicap,’ that would be the best thing for my life.



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IMPORTANT: Labor Relations Bulletin

2025 Holiday Schedule for Agreements between LA/NECA and IBEW Local Unions 11, 40 and 952

The following days are holidays (or non-scheduled work days) without pay pursuant to the terms of the applicable agreements indicated below. If a particular holiday is not marked, then it does not apply to the corresponding agreement.

Holiday or Non-Scheduled Work Day	Date Observed in 2025	Local 11 Inside Wiremen, Intelligent Transportation Systems, Concrete Coring, Inspectors, Residential & CE/CW	Local 40 Inside Wiremen	Local 952 Inside Wiremen, ITS, & CE/CW	Sound & Comm. SoCal 9th District Sound & Comm.
New Year's Day	Wednesday, January 1	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 20	Holiday	Holiday	Non-scheduled	
Presidents' Day	Monday, February 17	Non-scheduled	Non-scheduled	Holiday	
Cesar Chavez Day**	Monday, March 31	Holiday	Non-scheduled	Non-scheduled	
Friday before Easter	Friday, April 18		Non-scheduled		
Memorial Day	Monday, May 26	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Independence Day	Friday, July 4	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Labor Day	Monday, September 1	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Veterans Day	Tuesday, November 11	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 27	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 28	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Workday before Christmas	Wednesday, December 24	Non-scheduled	Non-scheduled	Non-scheduled	Non-scheduled
Christmas	Thursday, December 25	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Workday before New Year's	Wednesday, December 31	Non-scheduled	Non-scheduled	Non-scheduled	Non-scheduled

- Work performed on observed holidays shall be paid at double the straight-time rate of pay.
- LA/NECA Chapter office will be closed on the above holidays, except for Presidents' Day (Chapter office will remain open on February 17, 2025).
- If it is necessary due to job scheduling to work on non-scheduled workdays (indicated as "Non-scheduled" above), the straight time rate of pay will be applicable.
- **Cesar Chavez Day is observed on different dates depending on the city, state, agency or school district. This year, Local Union 11, 40 and 952 agreements observe Cesar Chavez Day on Monday, March 31, 2025.

11/2024

ANY IBEW LOCAL 11

JOURNEYMAN

INTERESTED IN SALTING

PLEASE CONTACT THE
ORGANIZING DEPARTMENT

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