



Brotherhood in Action: How IBEW Local 11 Rallied for Fire Victims



The Eaton fire was one of several large fires to strike the Los Angeles area in January. The fire killed at least 17 people and destroyed more than 9,000 buildings.

When wildfires tore through Los Angeles in January, IBEW Local 11 sprang into action. The union quickly mobilized to support affected members, providing aid, resources, and relief.

[See story on page 4](#)

NEWS @11

FEBRUARY 2025

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THE NEWSLETTER OF IBEW LOCAL 11

Local 11's Impact: From Leadership Panels to Disaster Relief at EWMC

By Robert Fulton

The 35th Annual Electrical Workers Minority Caucus National Leadership Conference in January certainly had an IBEW Local 11 flavor, from leadership roles to disaster relief aid.

With a conference theme of "Evolving to Embrace Tomorrow," the EWMC emphasized planning for the future with a strong foundation it has built over the past three decades.

"I thought it went really well," said Local 11 member Deon Mayes. The Sound &

(Continued on page 7)



The theme of the 2025 EWMC National Leadership Conference "Evolving to Embrace Tomorrow."



Celebrating Diversity in the IBEW



IBEW Vets Answer the Call



On Site: Burbank Airport



BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

By Robert Corona

Celebrating Diversity in the IBEW

union at a time when people of color were excluded from the predominantly white National Labor Union.

When the IBEW was founded in 1891, segregation was the law of the land, and black workers were not allowed to join the union as full members. But as the 1800's came to a close, black workers began to fight back against prejudicial Jim Crow laws that banned them from organizations, jobs, and even buying homes in certain neighborhoods. These new labor unions who were fighting for economic justice and inclusion became a beacon of hope for many of these minority workers.

The IBEW was not immune. It wasn't until World War 2 that blacks were allowed to join the IBEW as full union electricians. Since then, the IBEW has made significant strides in including minority members into our ranks, but we still have more work to do.

As we celebrate Black History Month, IBEW 11 celebrates the diversity in our ranks, both on the job site and in our union halls. By celebrating a culture of inclusion, we empower our members to have a voice at work and in their communities. We build our movement on the shoulders of those giant leaders who came before us. Together, we continue to

build a bigger, stronger and more inclusive labor movement.

Diversity Conference

In celebration of that same diversity, IBEW 11 sent 30 members to attend this year's Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) convention in St. Louis last month so they could experience the power of inclusion themselves. You can read more about the empowering EWMC conference on p 1.

I know firsthand what a difference IBEW 11 has made in my own life. That's why I believe it's so important for members to learn and understand what the IBEW offers to minority members. I'm very proud that several of our members were elected to leadership position of the national organization. And I'm very proud of the good community work the local does under the leadership of President Alton Wilkerson.

This year I attended the conference and was on a panel along with other business managers from around the country to discuss the value of having a union that reflects the makeup of their own communities. I'm always amazed at how much more progressive California is compared to other states. We have such a diverse community here in Los Angeles and I'm proud it's reflected

in our membership, our Executive Board and our staff.

Of course we have more work to do, but when I hear heartbreaking stories from other regions about the blatant lack of promotions, discrimination and harassment minority members have endured, it makes me realize that the IBEW can be a valuable agent of change and inclusion. We can be the beacon.

It's also why I think it's so important to send new members to these conferences. They can bond with their fellow brothers and sisters and experience the camaraderie and family that is the IBEW. Not only do members come away from these experiences enriched, but I believe it also inspires activism and the desire to get more involved in their union. A win win.

So if you're interested in going to the next conference, get involved in the local EWMC chapter and reach out to us. Because you are the future.

Fire Disasters

While our hearts go out to all the victims of the recent fires, including at least six of our members who lost their homes, and another 10 who were evacuated, I'm proud of how IBEW 11 rose to the occasion. We were there in the immediate aftermath

(Continued on page 3)

February is black history month, a time to salute labor's great black leaders. Throughout the month, you will see ads and recognition for a variety of great black Americans who have contributed so much to this nation on TV, in the press, at schools, on social media and more. But Black History Month holds a special place for the labor movement.

So many black labor leaders have made a difference in our fight for justice because our strength lies in our belief in diversity, unity, safety and fairness for all. Some of those great leaders include A Phillip Randolph who in 1925 organized the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first successful black-led labor union.

Other visionary leaders include Issac Myers who founded the Colored Caulkers Trade Union Society in 1866, Bill Lucy, who cofounded the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists in 1972 and the leaders of the Colored National Labor Union, established in 1869 as the first national black labor

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Produced by Senders Communications Group
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Dispatch from the EWMC



This last month, I had the pleasure of attending the EWMC conference in St Louis alongside almost 30 other delegates from Local 11. It was great to see the birthplace of our great union, where it all started. St. Louis is very strong within its union roots.

During this conference, our very own Alan Mora was announced the newly appointed National

EWMC Renew President. I have the utmost confidence that he will do a phenomenal job in that role, and I look forward to what he has in store for the organization. Also, Joel Greenfield was elected as the Social Media Secretary for National EWMC RENEW.

The conference this year had a large focus on supporting and encouraging the youth to get more involved within EWMC and IBEW. This will help grow the

organization and continue the mission of the EWMC and the IBEW.

The attendees of the conference also donated to relief efforts for the SoCal fires that we were so heavily affected by. Our very own Edson Morgan gave his heartfelt perspective on the Altadena fire, being that he is a native and current resident of the area.

After attending the EWMC conference, a few of the trustees and myself attended the National Employee Benefits conference. It was a very informative conference. I love opportunities to learn more about the intricacies of how other facets of the IBEW operate. It's never too late to teach an old dog new tricks.

Lastly, in our organizing department, we are still attending meetings at city hall pushing for approval of projects that will lead to more work for the members of local 11.

If anyone wants to get more involved and help out at these meetings, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. The more members

supporting these projects let's our elected officials know how important it is to have local people and union wages and benefits on these projects.

For more info on future work that will be coming to your area. Please reach out to your district agent. They attend countless pre-job meetings monthly and have a good grasp on the work that's to come

As always, if you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

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

The more members supporting these projects let's our elected officials know how important it is to have local people and union wages and benefits on these projects



**Local 11
Recovery Group**

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

WEDNESDAY, 5:00 PM
FEBRUARY 19TH, 2025
DISTRICT 4 HALL
400 CHATSWORTH DRIVE
SAN FERNANDO, CA 91340

Residential Inspectors

Apply



- › Residential Building Inspectors needed to assist in post-fires rebuilding efforts
- › Obtain your Residential Building Inspector Certificate
- › Maintain your place on the Out of Work book

BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

providing both the victims and the first responders with water, hygiene kits, groceries, cleaning, and more. We've also set up a hardship fund that people can donate to and members in need **can apply to here.**

And finally, I want to thank the members of our sister Utility Locals who were the big heroes of our recent fires. A big shout out to our

own hometown local, IBEW 18 who had 150 members on the ground, and IBEW 1245 from up north who sent 200 of their members during the fires to help restore electricity, and make sure our city was safe.

Read more about our coverage and all we were able to do to help our members and all the residents of LA as we rebuild our great city.

*In Solidarity,
Robert Corona
Business Manager*

IBEW Local 11 Steps Up: Supporting Members in the Wake of Devastating LA Fires

By Robert Fulton

When flames engulfed the Los Angeles area in January, IBEW Local 11 - led by Business Manager Robert Corona and supported by staff and the Executive Board - sprung into action.

On Wednesday, February 8, sitting in Local 11's Pasadena headquarters just a few short miles from where the Eaton Fire was rampaging across Altadena and the surrounding neighborhoods, Corona shut down the office and sent everyone home for the rest of the week.

Though the flames never made it as far as the Local 11 offices on Marango Ave. just south of the 210 Freeway, there were signs of the disaster everywhere. The smoke and haze in the air reminded Corona of the 1992 uprising following the Rodney King trial verdict. A member had moved his two motorcycles from his nearby home to the office's parking lot, one less thing to worry about should he need to evacuate. Compliance Officer Veronica Martinez called to say she evacuated, as did Political Director Antonio Sanchez (both of their homes survived). Overall, Local 11 leadership estimates that between six and 10 members lost their homes.

With the fires raging, Corona had his team set up a temporary email address, sent out an e-blast with resources to members, and posted a video on social media, anything to get the word out.

A week following the start of the fires, Corona and the Local 11 Executive Board held an emergency meeting to figure out how to help members in need. "We're looking to be able to get some money for our members that have been affected by these fires," Corona said, adding that details were coming.

"As far as we're concerned, we're all in this together," said Local 11 Executive Board Chairman "Big John" Harriell. "It's the right thing to do."

During the disaster, Corona heard from IBEW business managers from around the country who were checking in on Local 11 and offering assistance. NECA is figuring out a way to help, and Milwaukee Tool has been contacted about helping replace tools for members who lost their livelihoods in the fires. Mike Kufchak and his team of Local military veterans helped out a fellow vet who lost his garage in the fire.

The Local also activated a hardship fund, and Deon Mayes helped pass the hat at the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus conference in St. Louis, bringing home more than \$5,600

at last count to aid IBEW members affected by the fires.

As of the end of January, the 2025 fires across Southern California that kicked off the new year have killed at least 29 people, forced more than 200,000 people to evacuate, destroyed 12,000 homes and structures and cost untold billions of dollars in damage.

Back in the office, Corona asked staff to piece together care packages, including items such as toiletries, and donated them to Labor Community Services. They also assembled packages of water and snacks for first responders and drove them to the nearby fire station.

When the fires hit, several jobsites across the region - particularly those with outside work - shut down because of poor air quality.

"That was kind of the question that members had, hey, what do we do? So I put a message out saying that while this ash is dropping and the air quality is not very good, if you don't feel comfortable, don't feel obligated to stay on the jobsite," Corona said.

It's still too early for details about rebuilding, but work on any number of public entities such as schools - eight total burned - should be done using union labor.

The residential rebuild is another matter, but it may pose an

opportunity for Local 11 to show how effective members can be on the housing front.

"We've got to start talking about what we can do and how we can help and even the residential contractors that are non-union, going to them and say, hey, look, we got a workforce here that we can help you rebuild our community," Corona said. "This will be an opportunity that we don't want to squander. We're going to try to help."

For Big John, stepping up to help out was an obvious response to the disaster.

"The IBEW allowed someone like me to be an electrician and gave me an opportunity to not only feed my family, but help others feed their family," Harriell said. "What can I do to help? And so when I see another brother or sister down, how can I lift my head up to help you?"

For Corona, the enormity of the disaster fills his thoughts.

"I'm sitting here watching the news those nights and I'm thinking, what would I grab?" Corona said. "It's just so devastating, it's hard to even grasp. So those little things that we did, putting together care packages, taking the supply to the firefighters and the first responders, you want to try to do something to help the situation, even with the stuff you do, it seems so minimal."

From Service to Solidarity: IBEW Vets Answer the Call

Local 11 Director of Veterans Affairs Mike Kufchack and Veterans Committee Chairman Wayne Ashby heeded the call when one of their IBEW - and veteran - brothers lost his garage and everything in it to the Eaton Fire.

The Eaton Fire burned Don Eckvahl's garage to the ground,

as it did to his neighbor's home. Eckvahl's home, thankfully, was more or less untouched.

"It's just incredible that his house is still standing with the garage right next to it," Kufchack said.

Ashby and Kufchack organized a group of about a dozen IBEW veterans to clean up Eckvahl's front and back yards and sift through the garage ashes.

"We just took matters into our own hands there," Kufchack said. "And I tell you, at the end of the day, we left Don Eckvahl's with the greatest smile on his face. It really made us feel good about what we did."

Eckvahl was one of the organizers of a group of Local 11 vets that helped renovate the VFW hall in Azusa last Veterans Day.

"It's veterans helping veterans, and we take care of each other," Kufchack said. "We share a common bond. We share hardship together, but more importantly, we share relationships over the course of our military careers. You know, that old adage of no man left behind? Our veteran community carries those same values in the IBEW now."



ORGANIZING REPORTS

DISTRICT 1 Jorge Hernandez

As District 1 Organizer, I've been actively visiting non-union job sites to engage apprentices and journeymen, advancing our salting efforts as part of our broader organizing goals.

In December, I had the privilege of volunteering at the "Miracle on First Street" event, where we joined staff and members to provide meals to underprivileged families, showcasing our union's commitment to community service. Additionally, we continued the tradition of feeding apprentices at our annual union breakfast, fostering solidarity and camaraderie among our members.

Let's aim for a successful and prosperous year ahead.

DISTRICT 3 Carlos Rodarte

Hello from District 3,
As we begin the new year, our efforts are

focused on visiting non-union jobsites in West LA, West Hollywood, and the Fairfax area. We're making a difference by connecting with non-represented electricians and encouraging them to join the IBEW.

I've also been working on several key campaigns, including:

- Berg Electric
- IBEW YES
- National We Power America

These campaigns have generated significant interest, with many applicants eager to join the IBEW. Some have even expressed interest in becoming signatory contractors, which is a crucial step for our growth.

We're also staying informed about upcoming projects in LA County through the Dodge Construction Report and the LADBS Construction Activity Report.

Brothers and Sisters, If you notice any projects being built or know of anyone doing electrical work, please contact the organizing department. Together, we'll continue to grow and strengthen our union.

DISTRICT 5 Adalberto "Beto" Gonzales

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters,

In December, I, along with staff and IBEW volunteers, had the pleasure of providing a meal for the inner city youth and volunteers at the annual Miracle on 1st Street hosted by the Hollenbeck Center. It's always a great feeling to volunteer to help the community.

Thank you to all the members and family who came out to the District 5 Holiday Party. It's always great hearing stories about past Holiday parties, and I look forward to creating new memories.

I continue to visit the non-union job sites in the Antelope Valley and spread the word about the opportunities the IBEW has to offer.

Thank you to the District 5 members who call me with job sites they see along the way home and work. If you know anybody who is interested in joining, please share my contact information: Cell (626) 298-2427; Email: agonzales@ibew11.org

DISTRICT 1 NORTH
Zac Solomon

Greetings District 1,

I hope this report finds you well in these scary and challenging times.

Many of our members know someone who was impacted by the recent fires, and most of us were challenged in some way, whether it was being evacuated from our home or working on a project within the LA area that was affected by poor air quality. I highly encourage everyone who may be working in one of these environments to protect themselves by wearing appropriate PPE. Also, if you were directly affected, please reach out to your district welfare committee, as they can provide assistance and also point you in the right direction for further aid from outside resources.

Work in District 1 is continuing to grow with the start of some new LA college projects as well as HHH projects. Please remember to take care of yourself and your family, both on the job and in your community.

DISTRICT 1 SOUTH
Errol Cutley

Happy New Year!

We are entering the month of love. This love is not just emotion, but the sacrifice and dedication that we all appreciate as we rebuild our city. My thoughts and efforts are with the entire county as we take steps toward a new beginning for some, and a newfound strength for others.

We are more than a month into the new year and projects are ramping up in District 1 — projects like The Hollywood Park Hotel, LAUSD schools, Metro projects and many more.

I've had the honor to speak with members of different locals, and I am incredibly proud to call Local 11 home. The diversity and inclusivity that we have here at IBEW Local 11 speaks volumes, and it's heard well past our city limits. Our progressiveness is talked about in rooms outside of our jurisdiction. Your hard work and continued efforts that you all do to construct this county is noticed by visitors and locals alike. We are IBEW Strong!

DISTRICT 3
Mike Costigan

Happy New Year from District 3!

Although the job calls are still a little slow, the contractors I've been talking to are expecting work to pick up in 2025.

Contra Costa at Chevron completed the Isomax turnaround and had a layoff but is expecting to put in a few calls within the coming months. I also received a call from Mass Electric, and at the time of writing this article, they are planning on putting calls in for a project at the Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant. They will be replacing

34.5KV feeder cables.

I've also been monitoring the "Television City" project in the Fairfax District next to the Grove. On Tuesday, January 7th, with the help of IBEW Local 11 and the Building Trades, the Los Angeles City Council voted 13-0 to approve the \$1 Billion project.

I only report on District 3, so this is only a sample size of the work we can expect in Los Angeles County.

DISTRICT 5
Adalberto "Beto" Gonzales

Happy New Year, IBEW Family,

Our December District 5 holiday party was a success. We had over 160 members and their wonderful families join us. It is an honor to continue the tradition of having a holiday party and look forward to it every year, making it better and creating memories.

All this is possible because of the continued involvement of our welfare committee and family. This year, I look forward to having more members join us at our unit meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 5 pm at 360 Grand Cypress St, Palmdale, 93551 Suite 302. We also have a welfare committee meeting the last Tuesday of the month at the same location.

Upcoming work to look out for starting soon is the Resilience Project at the A.V Fairgrounds and the commons project at A.V College. Elite Electric continues work at Palmdale Water District headquarters. CSI continues ongoing work at Northrop Grumman and Lockheed Martin.

CIVIL SERVICE
Luis Arida

IBEW Family,

The following are the current updates for contract negotiations.

County:

Our bargaining team is ready to begin

negotiating. We are having our first meeting with the County as of this writing. I will keep you updated as we progress. Please encourage any non-members to join so that we can be at our strongest!

LAUSD:

Negotiations for your new contract will begin very soon. Please send me any proposals you can conceive of to improve your pay and benefits. After our strong gains during the last cycle, it is imperative that we continue to grow membership for negotiating power.

For further information, please attend our monthly Unit 14 meeting on the fourth Thursday of every month at 5pm. Additionally, please feel free to contact me at (626) 712-4769. or email me directly at arida@ibew11.org.

INTELLIGENT
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS
Chris Longoria

Local 11's commitment to excellence shines through in Business Manager Corona's unwavering dedication to the growth and success of the Transportation Systems Division. After months of thoughtful consideration, I am proud to announce the newest addition to our team: Ruben Rivas, CD# 7505912, as the ITS Business Representative.

Ruben brings nearly 20 years of experience as an ITS member in the electrical construction industry, complemented by nearly a decade of service as an instructor at the ETI. His extensive field expertise and deep industry knowledge will be instrumental in supporting our IBEW members effectively and enhancing the division's impact.

Please join me in welcoming Ruben as he begins this new chapter of service to our great union. He can be reached at (626) 479-0629 or via email at rrrivas@ibew11.org

Please feel free to contact me directly at (626) 318-6333 or via email at clongoria@ibew11.org

COMPLIANCE REPORT

LAUSD to provide lots of hours

By Veronica Martinez

As the new year begins, I wanted to share the LAUSD one-year look ahead for its PSA projects. In the first quarter of 2025, LAUSD anticipates awarding 50 projects of ADA improvements, HVAC and outdoor schoolyard upgrades and learning space improvements. The largest award of electrical work will occur during the second and third quarters of 2025. The approximately 65 projects awarded

during this period will include network upgrades, classroom upgrades and classroom replacements. The fourth quarter of 2025 project awards will continue to consist of classroom replacements, upgrades, HVAC, and athletic facilities upgrades.

I hope this report provides a positive outlook for what is to come this year.



EWMC

Continued from page 1

Communications Business Rep attended his 19th conference. “The members were fully engaged.”

As Mayes explained, the EWMC is going through the usual growing pains any organization eventually must confront. Leadership ages, handing the reins to the next generation.

“This is sort of a passing of the torch,” he said. “I think this was the first test for those of us who picked up the torch, and the conference went extremely well. We got a lot of great feedback from folks, so I’m very proud of what we did. I think it went great.”

Local 11 members now hold several roles at the national level of the EWMC. Mayes serves as the treasurer. ETI assistant training director Alan Mora was appointed National EWMC RENEW president, and Joel Greenfield is the RENEW social media secretary.

Local 11 President Alton Wilkerson, a previous EWMC RENEW National President, was presented with an award commemorating his ongoing work to advance the goals of EWMC.

Mayes moderated a panel that included Local 11 Business Manager Robert Corona, and Local 11 Executive Board Chair “Big John” Harriel moderated a panel with Rob Meadows of electrical contractors Morrow-Meadows. They had a frank discussion on the lack of minorities in leadership roles at major contractors.

“How do you get in those rooms, and how do you make yourself valuable?” Harriel said. “He got a chance to speak to them, and they got a chance to ask him questions on why there aren’t many blacks at the top and things of that nature.”

Harriel explained that it takes more than just hard work to advance.

“You have to have some advocates,” he said. “If you don’t have those advocates, people will fall into their biases.”

The EWMC conference took place a week after the Eaton, Palisades and other fires took their toll on the Los Angeles area. In response, Mayes helped organize a fundraiser, raising more than \$5,600 for IBEW members in need.

“We spoke to the board saying, hey, this is going on right now,” Mayes said. “We can make a difference if everybody here donates a little bit.”

For Local 11’s Victor Lambaren, last month’s conference was his first with EWMC. Lambaren has been an IBEW member since 2012. He’s been involved with the Latin American Electrical Workers Association but unfamiliar with the EWMC. Local 11 Business Manager Robrt Corona sent two members of the LAEWA as delegates to the St. Louis conference.

Lambaren said the conference “was an awesome experience” and that he “felt very at home.”

“It felt very all-inclusive,” he said. “I felt the Brotherhood from different people all over the country.”

Lambaren was organized into the union from a non-union employer. The structure and the brotherhood of IBEW stand out for him. He plans to get more involved with the EWMC.

Mayes was pleasantly surprised by the energy at the conference, taking place the weekend before the start of the second Trump administration.

“I was a little concerned, personally, that with the results of the national election hanging over, that the mood would be somewhat somber, but I can tell you, there was a lot of energy,” Mayes said. “There was no moping around. There was no sense that people were ready to give up. I got nothing but positive feedback from members. And this is a conference where if things are going wrong, you know about it.

The EWMC is designed to “Promote equity, equal opportunity and employment for minorities and underrepresented workers at all levels of the IBEW,” according to its mission. The organization also fosters leadership.

“I really believe in the organization and its mission,” Mayes said. “I don’t believe in holding these positions forever. These are stepping stones for other members to learn how to navigate these types of situations. I don’t know how much longer I’ll continue, but I’m happy to do the work.”



Local 11 President Alton Wilkerson, a previous EWMC RENEW National President, was presented with an award commemorating his ongoing work to advance the goals of EWMC.



Local 11 sent several members to the 2025 EWMC National Leadership Conference, including Business Manager Robert Corona, President Alton Wilkerson and Executive Board Chairman ‘Big John’ Harriel, among others.

APPRENTICE REPORT

Stay up on your certifications, and submit your LOAs

By Kelly Oliver

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a good holiday season. Just a few reminders to start off the year:

The jobs are consistently coming in, but if you’re off work, take advantage of the RSO/TWIC certifications and the asbestos certifications. We are constantly bringing in new apprentices and you don’t want to lose

an opportunity to take a decent job.

Also, the LOAs are very important to submit in a timely manner with documentation. Don’t be that one apprentice who forgets. I can’t help you if you don’t do your part.

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to come to my office or call me.



On Site: Burbank Airport



The Burbank airport visit was deemed a success, marked by the installation of the final steel piece in the new terminal structure. Workers from CSI, Rosendin, and GEC2 celebrated a key project accomplishment with a meal at the Burbank airport expansion. Business agent Brett Moss and Organizer Ben Frank conversed with members about the recent fires and job site concerns.

