

Advocating for Our Work

Local 11 pushes priorities in Sacramento



Members of IBEW Local 11 leadership recently met with representatives in Sacramento. This included State Sen. Sasha Renee Perez daughter of retired Local 11 member Ed Perez. She's pictured with Local 11 Business Manager Robert Corona. More photos here.

ach Spring, IBEW members from across the state descend on Sacramento to ✓ lobby their elected officials about upcoming legislation at the beginning of the legislative season. With a new, more combative and anti-union administration in place in Washington, DC, our challenges are heightened this year. The Los Angeles firestorms in January also put a spotlight on wildfire protections. In 2025, there will also be additional attacks on our jurisdiction from other trades trying to encroach on

we face on safety and permitting. March 24-26, IBEW 11 leaders and staff joined over 150 of their

our work, as well as the usual issues

IBEW union brothers and sisters from across the state to talk to their elected representatives about the most urgent workforce issues facing our membership: EV charging, streamlining permitting, opposition to offshore wind projects, battery storage and Net Energy Metering (NEM) reform efforts that impact our work.

Key issues we're focusing on:

Permit Streamlining — labor needs to have a voice in how projects are built in the communities where we live. There is an effort afoot to block labor's input in some permitting processes.

Battery Storage — we need to increase our production in order to hit our 2035 renewable energy goals that the Governor wants. We're sponsoring legislation in conjunction with the Fire Departments on establishing safety standards.

 ${f NEM\ reform}$ — we are supporting common-sense revisions to the current law that would lower the payout from 20 years to 10 years to benefit renters and other residents who don't have the funds to invest in solar panels.

We are also supporting legislation to ensure that our members working on PLA projects get paid when they are stiffed by the subcontractors by making the general contractors responsible.

What's Ahead for the IBEW Under the Trump Administration? Page 3



Beyond Boots and Gloves: Safety Conventions Address Mental

Health, Addiction

By Robert Fulton

embers of IBEW Local 11 represented well at a pair of safetyfocused conventions in Milwaukee last month.

One major takeaway from the 2025 IBEW Safety Conference and the

(Continued on page 7)



Zac Solomon of Local 11, left, participated in a panel discussion at a recent safety



Fighting for Jobs Across **Energy Sectors**



Shop Steward **Spotlight**



The Latest **VEEP Class**



obs for our members is

always priority number

one. That's why we spend so

much time here at Local 11

seeking out opportunities

new technologies. Clean

Recently I spoke at the Offshore Wind

Conference in Long Beach, along with

other leaders in the Building Trades

community about a technology that

can help create hundreds of jobs for

and maintaining wind turbines and

platforms that will sit in the ocean

the meeting in collaboration with

growing offshore wind sector.

We testified about the port

upgrades needed to help us achieve

and green environmental goals, as

Gov. Newsom's offshore wind, climate

well as developing new offshore wind

by a diverse group of labor, business

workforce communities. We were joined

and environmental partners to discuss

how to move the project forward and

explore alternative green energy

the coast of Long Beach.

in federal waters 20 miles or more off

The CA Energy Commission hosted

the Port of Long Beach to explore the

pivotal role that ports can play in this

our members for many years building

for more jobs and exploring

energy is at the forefront of

a new frontier for the IBEW.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE By Robert Corona

One Foot in the Future, One in the Present: Fighting for Jobs Across Energy Sectors

Plus: Convention Center update!

projects, worth billions of dollars of potential work for our members.

The challenge we face is that President Trump, on his first day in office, issued a temporary withdrawal on all leasing and permitting for all wind energy projects on federal land. But California officials are undeterred and told us at the hearing that they will continue going full speed ahead on all offshore wind projects.

While we have one foot in the future, we still have one foot firmly planted in the present. Many of our members work in the refineries, doing skilled and trained work. While we may be phasing out fossil fuels and moving toward renewable energy, there are many thousands of work hours between now and that transition.

That is why we speak to state legislators, investors, and offshore wind entrepreneurs to discuss projects and technologies that will benefit our members. Construction is a long-term project that we have to continually invest in.

As the IBEW works to electrify the future, we face challenges from the current administration in Washington, DC. We continue to advocate for ${\tt EVITP}-{\tt electrical}$ charging stations — and capturing that work for our members. However, California is at loggerheads with the Trump administration on that front as well. The administration is trying

to dismantle our EVITP charging programs and other green programs and trying to turn back the clock.

Jobs was the topic of conversation when Business Managers in the West met in Las Vegas last month to trade ideas and collaborate. It was also a major topic at the recent IBEW Construction and Maintenance conference in Washington, D.C. It's why we went as a delegation to Sacramento last month to talk to legislators about protecting and growing our work, and why we meet with City Council members about major construction in our own backyard.

You can read more about our legislative priorities in this edition of News@11. Be on the lookout for ways you can help us advocate for some of this legislation. We all must work together in our local communities to educate our elected officials and businesses that we are trained and skilled and ready to get to work.

Convention Center Update

Sometimes, all that hard work pays off. The Convention Center expansion and renovation has been on our radar for several years, and now we have some good news to report.

Earlier this month, the City Council voted 14-1 to allocate an additional \$27 million toward design and technical work for the facility built in the 1970s.

IBEW 11 was there, turning out at Council meetings and meeting behind the scenes to urge lawmakers to update the aging facility. The last major renovation was on the West Hall in 1991 — when I was just an apprentice.

We're losing conventions and other

events to competing cities. The IBEW is having its International Convention next year in San Diego. They chose that venue over our city because of the facility. L.A. should have the best. That's why we're behind upgrading our convention center.

The original goal was to have the center completed by the 2028 Olympics. However, the January firestorms temporarily dampened the project due to concerns about funding and other infrastructure needs. Now, officials have agreed initially to a phased approach that would have construction begin later this year and finish by 2029, while temporarily stopping construction for several weeks during the actual 2028 Olympics.

We will continue to keep you posted on the status of the Convention Center project, as well as our many other efforts to capture and protect our work. Remember, IBEW is well-positioned for the future, as we electrify the nation.

In Solidarity, Robert Corona Business Manager/Financial Secretary

IBEW 11's NEWS (a

President Alton Wilkerson

Vice President Kelly Oliver

Main offices of IBEW Local 11

RECORDING SECRETARY Irene Valenzuela

TREASURER Gary Tomlin **BUSINESS MANAGER/FINANCIAL SECRETARY** Robert Corona

Produced by Senders Communications Group

PUBLISHER: Cherri Senders **MANAGING EDITOR:** Robert Fulton **ART DIRECTOR:** Mike Kritzer www.SendersGroup.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Contractor Class, Upcoming Allocation Votes and Upcoming Negotiations

hope this article finds you in good health. And for those of you who celebrate, I hope that you are looking forward to a nice family day this Easter weekend.

I want to flag a couple of important upcoming events for you to put on your calendars.

First is the May 5th-9th Contractor Class Local 11 is hosting. This is a great opportunity for those of you thinking about becoming an electrical contractor and signing signatory with the local. Many Local 11 members have started successful companies after attending this class. If you're interested, there are still a few slots left. Please contact the Organizing Department at 626-243-9702 or Organizing@ibew11.org to reserve your spot.

Next are the upcoming allocation votes: Inside Wiremen, Sound &

Communications, Transportation, Railroad, Fairplex agreement, and the Turf agreement. The dates for the allocation meetings are still being finalized, but I want to remind all of you that the local union bylaws require you to show up in person to vote on where your monies will be allocated. Do not let others decide how your hard-earned money is to be allocated. Make sure your voice is heard. This is your union. We will keep you in the loop about upcoming dates for these important allocation meetings.

Two other important events to put on your radar are the upcoming negotiations for CE/CW's and the Residential Agreement. As the Director of Organizing for Local 11, I am letting you know that our department is focusing on growing the residential market which we believe is a promising area of growth in construction in

Southern California. Los Angeles County needs housing. With the passing of Measure ULA in 2022, the homelessness and housing solution, otherwise known as the "Mansion Tax," we believe the residential market will be a growing market for us to focus on for years to come. We are happy to announce we have recently organized a few new residential electrical contractors into the fold. LMS being one of them who has hit the ground running, requesting Residential apprentices and journeymen. We are looking forward to a promising future with them in Local 11.

We are also looking into pension options for our Sound and Communication, and Residential classifications. So please be on the lookout for future information in this regard.

As always, I am honored to serve as your President. If you have any



questions, concerns or just need to talk to someone, please reach out. Give me a call, text or email at 661-903-3996 or awilkerson@ibew11.org.

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

POLITICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

What's Ahead for the IBEW Under the Trump Administration

few weeks ago, a few thousand IBEW members from around the country gathered in Washington, DC to attend the IBEW Construction and Maintenance Conference. A few days later, thousands of building trades members joined them in the nation's capital for the annual North American Building Trades Union's (NABTU) Legislative Conference. I was there with about a dozen Local 11 members. Most of us have been to Washington, DC many times, but this was the first with Donald Trump as the 47th President of the United States.

International IBEW President Kenneth Cooper was proud to say that the IBEW has grown in membership but unfortunately, has lost one percent of market share. But in some good news, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that with the explosion of new technology, there will be a need for an additional 80,000 new electricians each year until 2032.

The IBEW has always believed that we must organize, growing as a labor movement or die. The goal is to make all these new incoming electricians IBEW members! We are uniquely positioned to grow as a union, we just need to seize the moment.

In a complete surprise, President Joe Biden was invited to speak at the IBEW conference, and was named an honorary member of the IBEW by our International President. President Biden was his old self, sharing stories about his father and stating several

times that "the middle class built this country, and unions built the middle class."

I miss Joe Biden, and I was happy to see him be recognized as a true brother of the IBEW. I'll never forget how President Biden would praise the IBEW by name at press conferences. Trump has not done that.

In other International news, President Cooper and International-

Treasurer Paul Noble announced the launch of a new IBEW podcast called "The Line — Leadership to Membership." **Check it out here.** It is available on YouTube, Spotify, and Apple Podcasts.

It is difficult to predict what this Trump administration will do for us, or against us. Sean McGarvey, the head of NABTU, compared our political situation to the famous Rumble in the Jungle fight between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman. Ali entered the ring with a strategy — take the hits from Foreman.

Ali knew that Foreman was strong, and that his raw power was undefeated. Ali also knew that Foreman would tire after taking so many swings at him. He was right. It's not easy to



Business Manager Robert Corona and President Alton Wilkerson join IBEW 11's contingent at the two Washington, DC legislative conferences earlier this month.

take the Trump hits, but with Republicans having control of the White House, US Senate, Congress, and the Supreme Court, we might not have a choice.

We received political briefings at both the NABTU and IBEW conferences. I would like to report that there is a plan to work with, or work around, the Trump administration. The truth is Donald Trump's actions are so chaotic and unpredictable that a plan might prove useless. Instead, I predict there will be many more attacks on unions, and we'll have no choice but to take the hits. And, as the labor movement has done in the past, I can only hope we position ourselves to punch back when the time is right.

Shop Steward Spotlight: Marco Zarate

By Stephen Lynch

very Monday through
Friday, Marco Zarate gets
up early in the morning
and drives the 86 miles
from his house in Moreno Valley
to his job with CSI Electric in
Palmdale. Then after a long eightand-a-half-hour day of working
as a journeyman electrician and
serving as a shop steward, the
48-year-old returns home to his
wife and three children.

It's a tedious and time-consuming trip, but one the 15-year member of IBEW 11 doesn't begrudge having to make. Zarate loves his job and greatly appreciates all that being a union electrician has meant for him and his family.

Zarate, who grew up and graduated from high school in Mexico, moved to the United States

with his mother and three younger siblings in 1994.

Soon afterward, Zarate enrolled at Imperial Valley College where he worked toward getting a degree and played soccer. A standout on the pitch, Zarate was offered an athletic scholarship by San Diego State but instead started a family and got married.

In 1997 Zarate moved to Fontana where he got a job doing concrete construction work. He later moved on to helping do non-union electrical work, which eventually led him to join IBEW 11 and start his 5-year apprenticeship in 2012.

One of the things that appealed to Zarate about joining the union and its electrical training program was that he was able to learn about the trade in the classroom while also getting hands-on experience and earning a much-needed paycheck.

"What I like about the union is that we're together. We vote together for what we want, and we fight together for what we need. It's not just one guy deciding our future." The pay and benefits that his union job helps provide are still something that Zarate considers a huge blessing and are a main reason he joined the union. He really appreciates that as a member of IBEW 11 he doesn't have to go it alone when it comes to getting pay increases and other allowances in the compensation package contract negotiated by the union.

"Before I joined the union, we would have to beg for a raise," Zarate said. "The last raise that I got (before joining the union) was 25 cents (an hour). What I like about the union is that we're together. We vote together for what we want, and we fight together for what we need. It's not just one guy deciding our future."

Highly involved in the union and possessing innate leadership skills, Zarate was approached about possibly becoming a shop steward by IBEW District 5 Business Rep Mitch Klein last year. Zarate agreed to take on the role which he began back in August.

"When I was doing concrete, I was a foreman," Zarate said. "I'm not afraid of being in a leadership position at all."

Being a shop steward requires Zarate to serve as a liaison between the 60 other people that work out of his shop and the union.

"I'm there for them in case they have any questions about our union or about our agreement," Zarate said. "...Whenever they have



questions about anything it's my job to be there to answer them in the best way I can. I'm also there to make sure the union members are treated equally and that union rules are followed."

Zarate says the biggest challenge about being a shop steward is trying to get everyone to attend once-a-month meetings.

For Zarate, there are no challenges that keep him from enjoying his job.

"I love being a union electrician," Zarate said. "It's not that I like it. I love it...Being part of IBEW 11 is one of the best things that has happened to me. I've been able to do a lot of things. I've been able to support my family. I've been able to provide my two daughters and son better opportunities. It has allowed me to save money, go on trips with my wife and kids and help them (my children) when they've needed it. Being in the union has been a blessing to me."

For Zarate, it makes that long drive to work every day much more bearable.

COMPLIANCE REPORT

Carlos Rodarte joins the team

By Carlos Rodarte

or the past four years, I have had the honor of serving as your District 3 Organizer. Today, I'm excited to announce that I am transitioning into the Compliance Department, where I will continue to represent our Local and support our membership. In this new role, I'll be working closely with Sisters Veronica Martinez and Diana Limon to ensure that all contractors comply with our CBA, PLA, PSA, and CWA agreements. Together, we are committed to holding contractors accountable when they fail to meet

these essential standards.

I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support throughout the years. Your dedication has truly made a lasting impact, and I'm thankful for the privilege of continuing to serve our Local in this new capacity.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me directly or reach out to the Compliance Department in Pasadena.



The District 5 hall hosted a family movie night, attracting members and their families from the Antelope Valley area. The event drew 35 attendees, who enjoyed hot dogs, popcorn, and a screening of Wild Robot.

DISTRICT 1 SOUTH Errol Cutley

Good day brothers and sisters!
As we Spring Forward into the month of April, we recognize the beauty from our ashes. Just like the rain makes our flowers radiate in vibrant colors, so does the beauty from our ashes reflect our hearts in the county. As we recover from the tragic fires that had shaken us, we can smile because of the love and support that was received from near and far.

We are entering into the second quarter of 2025, and the work picture is steady. We have experienced a few drawbacks, as well as multiple set-ups for success. District 1 is growing by the day. Whether that growth is coming from projects going strong or our members educating ourselves for the future work picture. As our industry grows, so does our knowledge of the electrical endeavors that contribute to our society.

I want to encourage all of our members to continue to be active in our local. Continue to pursue greatness and strive for excellence in our careers. No one is perfect, but that doesn't mean that we can't apply perfect effort. We are IBEW Strong!

DISTRICT 1 NORTH Zac Solomon

Greetings District 1,

We've continued to see calls come in for LAUSD projects.
Also, look forward to some new measure HHH jobs starting up shortly. We have been diligent about pushing these legislative bills and PLAs to make sure that we are creating more jobs for IBEW Local 11 members.

I would like to take a second to talk about mental health; I know it's something you may have been hearing about more and more recently. It is good that this is something we can talk about more openly, help each other to recognize the signs in others, and talk to our brothers and sisters on and off the job. Today, we have more resources than ever, so don't be afraid to reach out and just talk with someone. We are here to help lift each other up. When one succeeds, we all succeed.

DISTRICT 3 Mike Costigan

Greetings from the Westside!

Unfortunately, the better days of 2025 are starting off a little slower than expected, but the contractors I've been talking to have been aggressively bidding work in our jurisdiction. Of course, we've seen a few promising days of job calls and with fingers crossed, it's an indication of things to come.

I was out at the new 37-story high-rise building in Century City and the steel has been completed and Sasco continues to work on the core and shell. I was told that a few of our other contractors will also be performing the buildouts as this project continues to progress.

Rosendin has had calls for the MSC South job at LAX and are currently working 6-10's. When completed, they will be moving to terminal 5.

As for your Local 11 staff, we are out there attending City Council and School Board meetings with other trades to educate them on the benefits of using union trades.

DISTRICT 5 Adalberto "Beto" Gonzales

Greetings to all from District 5,

CSI Electric continues to work at
Northrop Grumman and Lockheed
Martin, CSI has placed calls for
Journeyman and apprentices for these
ongoing projects. CSI is in the underground stage in
the Resilience project at the Antelope Fair Grounds
and will be placing calls in the near future.

Gregg Electric is working on the tilt up in west Lancaster by Apollo Park, it won't be too long until that project is completed. I was told that they picked up another project in the same vicinity as this project.

Taft Electric did a great job at the AV Alta soccer stadium, looking forward to enjoying some home games at our revamped stadium. Thank you to our members for their hard work to make sure the stadium was built in time for the new season.

Thank you to all that show up for the unit and welfare meetings.

CIVIL SERVICE Yezdan Marquez

IBEW Family,

Hello brothers and sisters. I am excited to represent you in our



current contract negotiations for County and LAUSD.

County:

Our bargaining team is currently meeting with the county every Thursday. We are diligently working to achieve the best possible contract for our members. I will keep you updated as we progress. I am proudly conveying that our membership has gone up. Keep it up brothers and sisters. We will reach 100% membership.

LAUSD:

We are currently meeting with our bargaining team. Thank you all that have sent your proposals, as we will start meeting with the district next month. I met with some of our brothers and sisters. It's been a pleasure, and we are ready to achieve the best contract.

For further information, please attend our monthly Unit 14 meeting on the fourth Thursday of every month at 5pm.

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS Chris Longoria

The IBEW's partnerships with the State of California and local government agencies are driving the growth of transportation infrastructure and construction. From rail expansions and highway upgrades to EV charging networks, these collaborations ensure projects are built by a **Skilled and Trained** workforce that meets the highest standards.

By working together, we're securing funding for workforce development, expanding apprenticeship opportunities, and upholding labor standards that prioritize safety, efficiency, and quality. These partnerships don't just strengthen the industry, they create stable, long-term careers for electrical workers.

As California's transportation needs evolve, the IBEW remains committed to providing the expertise and training to meet them. Through these alliances, we're not just building roads and transit systems, we're building opportunities for workers and stronger communities for the future.

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

Contractor Business Course

Presented by Pro Union Consulting, LLC

Classes Are Filling Up Fast

For questions or to reserve your spot, contact the Organizing Department: 626-243-9702

Ben Frank: 626-390-4714 | Organizing@ibew11.org



Councilmember Hutt, CD-10, honored the women of IBEW LOCAL union 11.

DISTRICT 1 Jorge Hernandez

Brothers and Sisters,

I've been actively organizing new members, educating them on the benefits of IBEW, and strengthening our union's future. Organizing ensures better wages, benefits, and better jobs for all of us. I have attended meetings and hearings advocating for pro-labor policies, fair wages and future projects. These efforts ensure our voices are heard where decisions affecting our work are made.

We as the Organizing Department are still going strong with our Salting efforts. These efforts are essential for the growth of our local and overall membership. Additionally, we remain committed to supporting our brothers and sisters in time of need, reinforcing the solidarity that defines us.

Stay engaged, attend meetings, and support our efforts. Together, we make a difference.

DISTRICT 3 Myra Hildreth

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I continued visiting non-union projects throughout the district, including job sites in Westwood, Santa Monica, and West Los Angeles. I spoke with many non-represented workers and shared information about the IBEW.

I recently had the opportunity to help our brothers and sisters at IBEW Local 1245 with their campaign to unionize the Siemen's Mobility light rail plant in South Sacramento. The plant has a bad history of poor treatment of its workers, including discrimination, low wages, and safety concerns. The management threatened the workers that unionization would result in the union taking away their benefits. Unfortunately, we lost the fight. However, we will continue to represent the non-represented workers and spread unionism.

If you're out of work, try to take some classes at the ETI and get the certificate they require for the job call. This will also help when you renew your CA General electrician certification.

DISTRICT 5 Adalberto "Beto" Gonzale

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

The organizing efforts continue here in the Antelope Valley, with continuing visits to the mostly residential tract homes that are being built all over the valley. We are working on organizing the residential electricians so we can go after the residential market share.

Antelope Valley residents know about the Trader Joes facility that is being built non-union, well now we have a newly signed signatory contractor by the name of Energen Electric doing some work at that facility. Their scope of work might not be huge, but it's a huge win in having an IBEW contractor at that facility.

If you know anybody that has any questions on how to get organized or about apprenticeships, reach out to the organizer in your area. Notify your organizer of any work that you see in your daily travels, and we will go check it out and get back to you.

VETERANS CORNER

Congrats to the latest VEEP class

By Mike Kufchak

Fellow Veterans of Local Union 11,

I am happy to announce that we have successfully graduated VEEP (Veterans Electrical Entry Program) Class LA09. Not only have we maintained a few here in Local 11, but we were happy to assist other Locals in their endeavors to capture Veterans. Everywhere from Portland Or. to Houston Tx. Our next Class LA10 will begin in April.

Given the upcoming Construction

and Maintenance Conference, Local 11 has been asked to conduct a presentation on Veterans Committees, so therefore I will be presenting all that we have accomplished within the 9th District in terms of Organizing Veterans Committees throughout our Locals within our District.

Please note that Local 11 Veterans Committee has established a Facebook Page. Please take the time to **register**.





RETIREE CORNER

RSVP for our 50th Anniversary Luncheon

This year's Retirees' Club Summer Luncheon will be held on June 11, 2025, and will pay tribute to the club's 50th anniversary and our Local 11 retirees.

If you are thinking about retiring or have retired and want to hear about retirement life, this is a great place to come and mingle and learn a little about retirement life. You do not need to be retired or a member to attend the luncheon.

The luncheon's scheduled guest speaker is Mark Meyers from the 9th District.

If you would like to join us, please email us at RetireesClubIBEW11@gmail.com for additional information about the luncheon.



Luis Arida, Civil Service Agent of IBEW LOCAL 11, is sworn in as vice president of the Los Angeles/Orange County Building Trades. Joining him are Journeyman Wireman Donald Trotter, Organizer, Myra Hildreth, and District 1 Business Agent, Zac Solomon, who took oath as delegates to our Los Angeles/Orange County Building Trades.

SAFETY

Continued from page 1

National Safety Conference that followed is that the definition of safety now goes well beyond that of hard hats, boots and gloves.

The IBEW International invited Local 11 District 1 North Business Agent Zac Solomon to speak on a panel about addiction, recovery and mental health.

Solomon helped found Local 11's own recovery group which meets monthly.

"We started a recovery group in our Local to help break the stigma of not just alcohol abuse and drug abuse, but alcohol recovery and drug recovery," Solomon said. "There's a stigma against having an issue, but there's also a stigma against doing something to correct the issue."

Solomon shared that he's been a sober member of a 12-step program for 13 years, He started Local 11's recovery group to offer a safe space for members who also have an understanding of the construction grind, of getting up at 3 in the morning and humping conduit across a jobsite all day.

"Here, at the very least, you know that you have this common bond, that we are IBEW members, that we're tradespeople," Solomon said. "The members of our recovery group, we know what it's like. We're you, we're going through the same thing on a daily basis as you. So it adds this common bond and understanding."

Studies have shown that approximately 15% of tradespeople struggle with substance abuse, twice the rate of the general population.

Mike Costigan, Local 11's District 3 Business Agent, has attended national Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, was also a key theme this year.

Natalie Anaya joined the Safety Committee after hearing about mental health issues at a Tradeswomen's Conference. She reached out to Business Manager Robert Corona, who put her in touch with Costigan.

The construction industry faces a mental health crisis, with one of the highest suicide rates of any It definitely needs to be talked about a lot more," she said, adding that she can be an ear for her brothers and sisters out in the field.

Anaya, a seven-year Local 11 member and inside wireman, attended both conferences and found them eye-opening.

"It just kind of opened up my mind to see the bigger picture of safety, not just surface-level things," she said.

Hector Navarro is the Chairman of the Safety Committee and recently joined Local 11's Executive Board. His interest in safety started at the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic when his toolmate passed away.

When it comes to issues like cutting OSHA, he had a blunt message.

"How you vote is how safe you are," he said. "Social reasons are one reason, but your pocketbook, your wallet, your safety, sometimes have to supersede when you vote.

He reflected on how things have changed in his 35 years in the trade, in how mental health is discussed.

"Mental health seems to be the number one topic and how it ties to pretty much all the rest of safety," Navarro said. "We weren't doing this. We weren't talking about it. It's a whole different generation and different mentalities. It's exciting."

"Mental health seems to be the number one topic and how it ties to pretty much all the rest of safety."

— Hector Navarro

several conferences over the years and has played a pivotal role in Local 11's safety initiatives. He said that this year's conferences emphasized pain, physical wellness and mental wellness. The National Conference also addressed possible cuts to OSHA by the Trump administration, though California has its own OSHA.

Costigan said that he's been focused on job hazard analysis and stretching at the beginning of a shift. The spread of 988, the profession. Male construction workers are especially at risk—their suicide rate is 75% higher than that of men in the general population, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2022 alone, an estimated 6,000 construction workers died by suicide, up from the previous year. That's six times the number of workers—about 1,000—who died from job-related injuries.

"I didn't know that mental health was under the same safety umbrella.







Charity Golf Tournament

PHOTOS BY RICK GUSTAFSON

IBEW Local 11 held its first-ever charity golf tournament at Industry Hills Golf Club at Pacific Palms Resort on Monday, March 31. The event benefited the Hollenbeck Youth Center.











25-Year Members





Jose Gomez, of District 4 and Emilio Lopez of District 5 received their 25-year member pins. Congratulations!

ANY IBEW LOCAL 11 JOURNEYMAN

INTERESTED IN SALTING

PLEASE CONTACT THE ORGANIZING DEPARTMENT 626-243-9702 | ORGANIZING@IBEW11.ORG

