



NEWS@11

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THE NEWSLETTER OF IBEW LOCAL 11

AUGUST 2025



LOCAL 11'S UNIT 14 KEEPS L.A. POWERED UP AND MOVING

By Robert Fulton

The City and County of Los Angeles is a behemoth that takes an army to keep running.

For IBEW Local 11, that army is Unit 14, Civil Service. The workers in Los Angeles County Public Works Department's Traffic Signal Division is part of IBEW

Local 11's Unit 14 Civil Service group.

Unit 14's electricians do the unheralded work that keeps Los Angeles moving. Streets stay lit, schools get powered, airports buzz with energy, and public facilities remain safe and operational because of them.

"LA County's Public Works Traffic Technician Training Program (TTTP) is one-of-a-kind, on-the-job training program that prepares employees to advance into a journeyman Traffic Signal Electrician position," said Edward Carmona-Leon, L.A. County Department of Public

Works Chief Electrician. "Traffic technicians gain valuable knowledge and experience from our Signal Construction, Shop, Maintenance and Street Lighting groups and are educated about various safety work related topics and precautions."

For Unit 14 co-business agent Alex Flores, who stepped into the position in June after longtime leader Luis Arida moved on to take on a new role as Local 11 Assistant Business Manager, his new job has been a constant learning experience.

Flores, a 30-year Local 11 member, described the work of civil service electricians as different from that of inside wiremen, who focus on installation in construction projects.

"Civil service is more governmental," Flores said. "It's more maintenance work than the inside wireman, where you're installing the material, the devices. It is a different mindset, but you still take pride in your work and what you're doing."

Flores said in his role as representative, he has the added responsibility to ensure members across agencies are treated fairly. "I'm here to make sure they're getting paid correctly, to make sure of their rights and working conditions," he said.

(Continued on Page 9)

\$442 Million-Dollar PLA with Rio Hondo College Paves Way for Thousands of New Construction Jobs

IBEW 11 joined the LA/OC Building Trades Council in signing a landmark Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with Rio Hondo College (RHC) earlier this month that will ensure the \$442-million bond measure (Measure RH) passed last year to fund campuswide renovations, upgrades and new construction, will be performed by 100-percent union labor.

RHC will use Measure RH funds to renovate and modernize campus classrooms, labs, and facilities as well as address campus safety and accessibility issues.

"The Board voted to continue our partnership with the community and labor with a 6-0 vote last week in favor of the Community Workforce Agreement, or PLA, for the RH Measure we passed last year," said RHC Board of Trustees President Oscar Valladares. "This vote is a continuation of our strong investment in our community, our long-term commitment to support a skilled workforce, and deliver labor protections and livable wages to our workers."

(Continued on Page 5)



11 For 11: A Contractor Record

pg. **4**



Local 11 Hosts Ally Senator Schiff

pg. **5**



11's Hernandez Goes Above and Beyond

pg. **8**

BUSINESS MANAGER'S MESSAGE



Promising Work Picture Ahead

Dear Brothers and Sisters – It's been a busy summer at Local 11 – from securing our prevailing wages from a brazen attack last month to securing more work for our members on a variety of projects coming up in the fall. Our organizing department has been going gangbusters as well, bringing on 11 new signatory contractors in the last year, which will create more work for members. In fact, we're already getting calls from some of those contractors who are putting our members to work.

I'm pleased to report that we received an award at the 9th District Progress Meeting for most contractors organized within the 9th District in 2024 (See our story on page 4). A big shoutout to the whole organizing department for their hard work.

On the work front, I'm happy to highlight our big \$442-million PLA victory at Rio Hondo College last week. Thank you to our

Business Development team for maintaining these long-standing relationships and helping bring this victory home (Read the full story on page 1).

We're also fighting for battery storage facilities in Acton, that will create hundreds of jobs for our members. The upcoming 2028 Olympics will also create many work opportunities as we renovate existing facilities and build some new facilities to host Olympic events.

Prevailing Wage Win

Last month we successfully protected our prevailing wage rates from an attack by another building trades craft and some of our friends in the legislature. We jumped into action with our fellow IBEW Brothers and Sisters around the state with phone calls, emails, and in-person visits to legislators. As a result, we were able to uphold our wages and not get downgraded to \$20 an hour! Thank you to all

who reached out to legislators and urged them to opt for skilled and trained workers rather than engage in a race to the bottom in filling California's affordable housing gap.

Our message was loud and clear: We refuse to build affordable housing on the backs of our members.

There's also encouraging news on the renewable energy front. With federal funding now at risk with the Trump administration clawing back billions of dollars in promised funding, we are continuing to pursue grants and private funding for future-focused technologies like offshore wind, geothermal, battery storage, and more.

ICE Raids Fall Out

I know the continuing ICE raids have many of our members and their families on edge. We are doing what we can, but we are constrained by the legal extent of the law. We are working with our Brothers and Sisters at the LA County Federation of Labor pushing back as much as legally possible to protect our members. If you have any problems at the worksite, please call us ASAP for assistance. We know some of you are having trouble making appointments for your work visas. Many of these appointments are getting pushed back due to staff shortages and a general slowdown in processing these appointments.

I also want to urge you to be on the lookout for safety rollbacks on the jobsite with OSHA funding being squeezed. If you notice safety violations or don't feel safe on the jobsite, please contact your job steward, Business Agent, or call us at the Local. This is one more example of why politics matters.

Remember that next election.

And, finally, I want to remind everyone that, "It's okay not to be okay." We have a mental health crisis in the construction industry, with our suicide rates 3-5 times higher than the general population. In that vein, remember that September is mental health month. Reach out if you're having issues. We're here for you. We are family. We are your Brothers and Sisters.

In solidarity,

Robert Corona

**ANY
IBEW LOCAL 11
JOURNEYMAN
INTERESTED
IN SALTING?**

Please contact the Organizing Department at:

**626.243.9701
organizing@ibew11.org**



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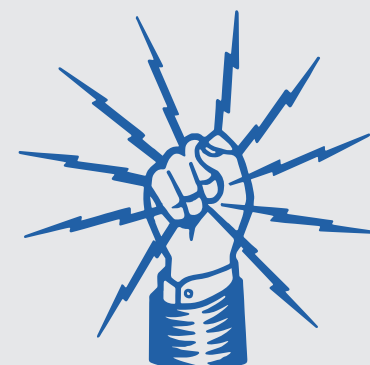
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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Organizing Department Firing On All Cylinders Right Now

Our organizing efforts are firing on all cylinders right now. Our organizing campaigns in the affordable residential housing market are in full swing. I'm pleased to report we're getting very good results on our efforts.

We've been working for the past few months to penetrate the residential market by organizing new members into that community. We've had work calls into the hall the past few weeks that are going unfilled. That's allowed our

IBEW 11 organizers to get our new organized candidates to take the calls and be on the job sometimes the same or next day.

We've signed 11 new contractors in the calendar year in 2024. Kudos to Ben Frank and the rest of the organizing department for leading the effort on those campaigns. We're already getting calls from some of these new, smaller contractors who are putting our members to work. You can read our story on page 4 about our efforts. And

don't be shy about hi-fiving Ben and the gang for their stellar work.

We're also proud of member and Organizer Jorge Hernandez for his tireless efforts in organizing Sema Electric and bringing them into the union fold. He received an "Above and Beyond" award from the IBEW 9th District for his efforts. Using some creative organizing techniques, Hernandez and his team used salting techniques to help bring the contractor around. He says it's all about communications and relationships, and we couldn't agree more.

Read the story on page 8.

We're also very proud to announce our Community Workforce Agreement (CWA) with the city of Palmdale. Through long-term relationship building with the community and elected officials, plus showing our worth as skilled and trained workers who can save the city money by bringing jobs in on time and on budget, we've been able to fold what was once an anti-union stronghold into the union column. Hats off to Beto Gonzalez and the other organizers in District 5 for helping organize contracts, members, and the actual jobs into work for our members.

Qué Hacer Cuando es Confrontado por Oficiales de Inmigración

**¡CONOZCA
SUS
DERECHOS!
INMIGRACIÓN**

1. No tiene que permitir que oficiales entren a su casa a menos que presenten una orden firmada por un juez. Una orden de arresto debe nombrar a una persona en su residencia. Una orden de cateo debe incluir una dirección y las áreas que se buscarán dentro de la residencia. Si no le presentan una orden, mantenga la puerta cerrada y diga "No doy mi consentimiento para que entre."
2. No firme ningún documento.
3. Tiene el derecho a mantenerse en silencio. Si no tiene documentos migratorios, pida hablar con un abogado.
4. No necesita responder a preguntas sobre el lugar donde nació.
5. No falsifique documentos o mienta sobre su estado migratorio.

Esta información no es asesoramiento legal.

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ACLU of Northern California: (415) 621-2488

ACLU of Southern California: (213) 977-5253

ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties: (619) 232-2121

Para recursos legislativos o asistencia con agencias estatales, llame (916) 651-1502



ROBERT CORONA SWORN IN FOR ANOTHER TERM



IBEW 11 Business Manager Robert Corona (second from right) was sworn in for another term on the California State Association of Electrical Workers leadership board this week.



11 For 11: Local 11 Sets District Record for Contractor Signings

IBEW 11 added a record 11 new signed contractors to its rapidly expanding employer roster in 2024 – the most new signatories of any Local in IBEW’s 9th District.

With IBEW 11 Contractor Organizer Ben Frank leading the charge and Business Manager Robert Corona setting the course, Local 11’s organizer, business agent, and compliance teams have spread out across Los Angeles County in force employing a combination of persistence and dedication to open new doors and break down old stereotypes.

Frank attributes Local 11’s recent record-setting gains to the simplicity of the message and the math: for contractors, greater access to union-trained workers yields higher-quality projects; for union members, more union contractors mean more union jobs.

“We don’t need to sell anything, because our membership speaks for itself,” Frank said. “We have career electricians who are well trained and highly skilled and go to one of the best institutions – our ETI – to get that training.”

Frank said Local 11’s success has been a balance of educating non-union contractors on the value of union membership, building their trust and confidence, and then setting them up for success once they join the union family.

“Our organizers show up on contractors’ job sites, and I’ll show up and then make phone calls, send emails and LinkedIn messages, and go to their offices and knock on their doors and talk to the owners, and educate them,” Frank said. “When I see that job call come across the board from one of our new contractors that in turn gives one of our members an

opportunity to go out to work and provide and feed their families and get their hours in to get closer to their pension – that fulfills me more than anything.”

Patience and Persistence Pay Off

The results speak for themselves: more job calls, more members working, and stronger industry presence. Three newly signed contractors have already begun placing job calls across multiple classifications, including requests for foremen and supervisor roles. The momentum has continued, with Local 11 signing another two new contractors in August alone.

Frank credits 11’s success to an unwavering organizing commitment at every level inside the Local plus an understanding that the painstaking research, training, and relationship building it takes to move a non-union contractor from their first

union conversation to their first dispatch can range from days to years.

“Our strategy is we are going to find ways to say yes, and if there is something a contractor needs or requests, we are going to find innovative and progressive ways to partner up and find that middle ground,” Frank said. “I’m out there grinding, sitting down face to face with these contractors and working with them to give them every avenue possible to be successful, but without the support from our entire team – the organizers, business agents, compliance, clerical, plus the support from Business Manager Robert Corona and President Alton Wilkerson – none of our success would have been possible.”

A final ingredient in Local 11’s signatory success, Frank said, is letting employers know that once they sign that contract, their relationship is just beginning.

“When I sit down face to face with these contractors I work with them to give them every avenue possible to be successful, and I let them know that once they become signatory it doesn’t end there,” Frank said.

“I let them know I’m a liaison between them and our members to help grow and guide and serve them so, in turn, our members get to go out and work with competent, eager contractors.

“These contractors are entrusting us with their company and to build their projects in a timely manner so they can make their budgets and their timelines, and they need guidance and direction.

They always have questions, so you need to let them know you’re always there for them. They’re running a business, and that business depends on our membership, so I hold that close and dear and understand, so that’s why I’m always here to serve.”

NAME

Bersa Security Solutions
Power Net Electric Inc
RESA Power
Shelton & Case Electric
Blue Collar Contractors
Dubois Electric LLC
ARC DAS Electric
Scripts LV Corp
LMS Electric
J Teague Electric
Build Elite LLC dba Patrona Electric

SIGN DATE

01/26/24
02/12/24
02/18/24
04/01/24
04/08/24
06/17/24
07/01/24
09/16/24
10/18/24
12/06/24
12/16/24



Local 11 celebrated the signing of 11 new contractors during the tenure of Contractor Organizer Ben Frank.



\$442 MILLION-DOLLAR PLA WITH RIO HONDO COLLEGE (Cont'd from Pg. 1)

"This PLA is a win-win for IBEW 11 members, Rio Hondo College, and the community surrounding Whittier that it serves," said IBEW 11 Business Manager Robert Corona. "This PLA will help create thousands of good-paying union construction jobs, and the college knows the state-of-the-art campus they need to educate the next generation of students will be built by skilled, trained, and dedicated union workers who will deliver an A-plus final product."

A Win for the Local Community

"The whole community will benefit from this PLA," said Mario Barragan, IBEW 11 business development rep, who worked on passing Measure RH and the subsequent PLA.

"It will provide high-road career paths for the community. It has a 40 percent local hire requirement. Family members who voted for this bond measure can get jobs working on the renovations. It's also exposing Rio Hondo's students to a career in the trades – which is a good thing for everyone."

Local hire provisions also apply to qualified and trained veterans and students.

"The unanimous Board support for this PLA – and for the strong labor protections and jobs it delivers for the community – underscores our appreciation of the connection between good jobs and a sustainable community," Valladares said. "Local hires increase the viability of communities like ours, and we are committed to raising stable families, which means hiring workers close to home."

Measure RH construction will begin with the most urgent projects, with a phased project schedule to ensure bond dollars are used responsibly and efficiently. Funds will be used to upgrade clean drinking water systems, update lighting, fire alarms, camera and emergency systems and remove hazardous materials on campus, including mold, lead paint, and asbestos.

Other key infrastructure upgrades include the planned

installation of E.V. charging stations, solar panels, and battery storage facilities – projects where experienced IBEW 11 members shine.

Bond projects also include campuswide repairs to leaky roofs, deteriorated HVAC units, and faulty plumbing; modernized technology, electrical wiring and high-speed internet; and renovated classrooms for first responder training and other high-demand careers.

"Thanks to Measure RH, we can revitalize our campus to better serve our students and community," said RHC Trustee Anais Medina Diaz. "These improvements will provide our students with a safer, more modern learning environment where they can gain the skills and education needed to thrive in today's workforce and achieve their academic goals."



LOCAL 11 HOSTS LONGTIME ALLY SCHIFF



(L-R) IBEW 40 Business Manager Stephan Davis, IBEW 11 Business Manager Robert Corona, U.S. Senator Adam Schiff, IBEW 18 Business Manager Martin Marrufo.

IBEW 11 Hosts Longtime Labor Ally Schiff in Show of Solidarity

IBEW 11 hosted longtime labor ally U.S. Senator Adam Schiff this month alongside Brothers and Sisters from Local 18, Local 40, and Local 47, and Iron Workers Locals 416 & 433 and UFCW 770 in a show of solidarity and shared commitment to strengthen workers' rights and collective voices.

Sen. Schiff reiterated his ongoing commitment to fight to preserve union rights and

strengthen worker protections in the face of federal government threats to strip away dozens of workplace safety and wage regulations and end collective bargaining agreements between government agencies and federal unions.

Sen. Schiff also outlined his commitment to prevent federal government plans to slash billions of dollars from a host of already-approved and funded

infrastructure projects including wind, solar, EV, and battery storage facilities that have created – and now jeopardize – thousands of new union jobs.

"Senator Schiff has been a steadfast union ally who has always supported working men and women because he embraces union values and understands that trained, skilled, and dedicated union Brothers and Sisters represent the backbone and spirit of the American worker," said IBEW 11 Business Manager Robert Corona. "We know Senator Schiff will continue to fight for working men and women even as the battles ahead get tougher."

The EV industry received a reprieve of sorts last week when the Trump administration reluctantly agreed to unfreeze \$5 billion in funding for the construction of new electric vehicle charging stations that was made available under President Joe Biden's 2021 infrastructure law. Even this reversal came with a caveat: the new rules remove Biden-era language promoting labor standards and the use of minority-owned contractors and investments in disadvantaged communities.

"Staying connected with the men and women of IBEW who keep our economy moving inspires me to bring their stories and passion to the Senate, fighting every day for fair pay, job safety, and training programs that create good-paying union careers – even in the face of disastrous decisions from the Oval Office," said Sen. Schiff.

Despite the federal government's continued heel dragging on green-energy investments, California continues to power ahead.

The California Energy Commission this month announced the launch of the Fast Charge California Project, a \$55-million incentive program to cover up to 100 percent of installation costs for EV fast chargers at businesses and public sites statewide.

The program is part of the California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALeVIP), the nation's largest EV charging incentive initiative. Since 2017 CALeVIP has supported the deployment of nearly 10,000 EV chargers, helping to accommodate California's more than 2.2 million light-duty EVs, according to the Center for Sustainable Energy.

BUSINESS REPORTS

DISTRICT 3



Mike Costigan

Hello from District 3. As we reach the middle of summer, we are seeing a definite work uptick. Over on the Westside, the new projects will be the LAX Terminal 5 enabling which will roll into a completely new terminal, and the long-anticipated One Beverly project at the crossroads of Wilshire and Santa Monica boulevards. Projects that are in full swing that continue to put calls in are: the Apple Crossing Campus in Culver City with Sasco and Rosendin; the new 37-story building in Century City where CSI is doing a new build out on 15 floors; the Purple Line 2 and 3 stations with Fisk; and multiple school districts throughout the county.

So, as you can see, the third quarter looks promising. As a friendly reminder, if you see a new construction project anywhere in Los Angeles County, please reach out to the agent or organizer in that area so we can check it out.



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DISTRICT 5



Adalberto "Beto" Gonzales

Greetings Sisters and Brothers.

I want to take this time to thank our new District 5 Unit officers. Recording Secretary Journeyman Wireman Richard Macon, Vice Chairman Journeyman Wireman Cy Marshall, and Chairman Journeyman Wireman Stephen Joyner were re-elected to new terms.

Thank you all for stepping up and giving your free time and being active and engaged members.

The cities of Lancaster and Palmdale held city council meetings to vote on a CWA (Community Workforce Agreement), which passed unanimously.

A big part of why these CWAs passed is because these local politicians know that we are skilled and trained, and they understand what we bring to the table.

Work is steady in the Antelope Valley. We should be seeing job calls in the following few months at AV College for Christian Belle Electric and for CSI Electric at A.V. Fairgrounds. Both projects have steel going up and are almost ready for electrical.

MANUFACTURING & INDUSTRIAL



Kristian Mendoza

Hello. I hope all is well with you and your families, and you are staying safe.

All is well on the P&I. Here are the most-recent updates.

- **Kinkisharyo:** We have sent our letter of intent to restart negotiations in the next few months and are waiting for the company to respond. The P2550 contract is moving along, and everyone is patiently waiting for news on the Hyundai trains.
- **The Supervisor Association Metropolitan Water District (SAMWD)** is continuing to battle with the MWD over items in their reopening and this past week attended a PERB mediation to try and resolve issues.
- **EAA** had their annual member appreciation day at Knott's Berry Farm July 19, and it went well with many members and their families attending. We are still going through the hearing process for the Council Aides campaign but hope to hear something soon.

If you have any questions or concerns about Manufacturing or Industrial please feel free to contact me. 661-965-0288 / kristian@ibew11.org

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION

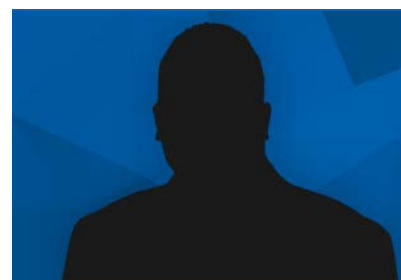


Chris Longoria

In Southern California IBEW 11 members are building the infrastructure that keeps this region moving. We're working on freeways, airports, light rail, traffic signals, and toll roads. These projects aren't just short-term. They're providing steady hours and consistent work for our members across Los Angeles, Orange County, and the Inland Empire.

The transportation industry is taking notice. It sees the value of partnering with a skilled and trained workforce who are ready to deliver. We show up, we get the job done, and we build trust that leads to a demand for IBEW electrical workers. ITS representatives are available at both District 6 (Diamond Bar) and District 1 (Commerce) offices. Follow us on Instagram at [IBEW11_ITS_SOCAL](https://www.instagram.com/IBEW11_ITS_SOCAL). I also can be contacted directly at 626-318-6333 or email at clongoria@ibew11.org.

SOUND & COMMUNICATIONS



Joe Mendiola

Hello Brothers and Sisters.

My name is Joe Mendiola, card #8205397. I'm honored to serve as your new Sound & Communications Business Agent. With over 26 years in the industry – from apprentice to superintendent – I bring a wide range of experience and a strong understanding of our agreement to this role.

Deon Mayes and I work together to strengthen representation across all districts. We've been visiting job sites, meeting with members, and listening to your concerns to ensure you're supported.

It's a privilege to stand with you. I'm committed to serving our unit with respect, dedication, and unity.

Veterans Corner

Fellow Veterans of Local Union 11, I have returned from the 9th District Progress Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska where I, along with all 9th District state representatives, conducted a one-day Veterans Caucus Workshop for all veterans in attendance. Among the topics presented and discussed were the MORE Alliance (Mentorship, Opportunities, Resources, Employment), which included an in-depth discussion on Mental Health and Resources and was followed up by role-playing scenarios. We culminated with a presentation from the 1st Objective of the IBEW Constitution, Veteran Committees and Programs to Leverage Organizing. In all, it was a very productive workshop that provided great insight to everyone in attendance. As an aside, the Local 11 Veterans Committee is currently planning for this year's annual IBEW 11 Picnic. Contractors have already begun placing job calls across multiple classifications, including requests for foremen and supervision roles—an encouraging sign of the

growth and trust being built. These job calls are more than just numbers; they're a direct reflection of the hard work our team invests in reaching out to non-union contractors, educating them on the value of partnership with Local 11, and supporting them every step of the way.

We don't just sign contractors—we guide them. From initial conversations to their first dispatch, we ensure they feel confident and equipped to succeed as signatory employers. The results speak for themselves: more job calls, more members working, and stronger industry presence.

I take great pride in helping expand our membership and supporting the contractors who believe in union labor. Our mission is clear: grow the IBEW Local 11 family, secure quality work for our members, and continue building a better future for all.

Respectfully,

Mike Kufchak

Director of Veteran Affairs, IBEW Local Union 11

ORGANIZING REPORTS

DISTRICT 1



Jorge Hernandez

Hello Sisters and Brothers! I've been actively organizing in our Local 11 district to increase our numbers and strengthen our presence. I have also been working closely with Brother Ben Frank on organizing efforts with contractors.

The salting efforts are still going strong. I would like to thank all the Brothers and Sisters who have been a part of the salting program past and present. Your hard work and professionalism make the difference. Keep up the great work! If you want to be part of the salting efforts you can always call me or the Organizing Department to get more information.

Earlier this month I had the honor of receiving the "Above and Beyond" award at the Ninth District Progress Meeting in Alaska. I want to thank all the organizing departments for your help and support. Local 11 is always on the front line of organizing.

Let's keep it going!

DISTRICT 2



Myra Hildreth

Hello, Brothers and Sisters.

It's already shaping up to be a scorching summer. Please remember to stay hydrated and take care of yourselves out there.

Organizing efforts remained strong last month, with continued job walks at non-union job sites throughout District 3. These visits have proven fruitful. Several promising new organizing candidates have reached out, sparked by field connections and word-of-mouth from current candidates. I also participated in the LAUSD Workforce Preservation Group meeting, led by the Labor Compliance Department. This team is empowered to conduct site visits, interview workers on District property, and assist with audits, hearings, and reviews.

In recent weeks, I've visited non-union job sites in Inglewood, Ladera Heights, Culver City, and El Segundo. If you know of a non-union site or worker, don't hesitate to contact the organizing department.

DISTRICT 5



Adalberto "Beto" Gonzales

Hello Sisters and Brothers.

Since our last newsletter President Alton Wilkerson, Business Representative Kris Mendoza, District 5 Chairman Stephen Joyner and I attended city council meetings in the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale to speak about the importance of having a Community Workforce Agreement (CWA). Thanks to our good rapport with both cities each passed unanimously.

I recently attended the 9th District Progress Meeting in Alaska. Local 11 took first place with the most contractors signed in 2024. Great job, team! We were also given the IBEW total membership count: 742,571. The 9th District accounts for 157,917 of that total. We are still short of the 1 million goal set by IVP Kenneth Cooper, but we are making great progress. Congratulations to District 1 Organizer Jorge Hernandez for receiving the 2024 Above and Beyond award. Keep up the hard work, Brother!

APPRENTICE REPORT



Kelly Oliver

Greetings to all apprentices,

August is already here, and summer is flying by quickly. I hope you all are enjoying the sunshine before the autumn season comes and the days become shorter. The apprentice calls have been coming in daily from many different shops and types of work. Apprentices always hear me say, "Treat it like a business and be about the business." So, a reminder: if the contractor has you sitting, if you're not getting 40 hours, or if you've been doing the same thing too long, reach out to me. You only devalue yourself and your skills when you're not working or doing different aspects of the trade.

We are bringing in new apprentices every month, and they are eager to learn the trade. So, don't become complacent and get left behind or become unvaluable because you got comfortable. I hope some of you hear me and aspire to become foremen because I am tired of clearing in foremen to do our work. Learn the trade, run the work!

NATIONAL STAND-DOWN CONSTRUCTION SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

2025
Monday, Sept. 8

We are Participating in the
2025 CSPW Stand-down



CONSTRUCTION SUICIDE
PREVENTION WEEK
ConstructionSuicidePrevention.com



Local 11 Recovery Group



**WE'RE HERE
FOR YOU.**

A GROUP OF IBEW MEMBERS DEDICATED TO ASSISTING AND UPLIFTING OTHERS IN THE RECOVERY PROCESS, AS WELL AS HELPING TO REDUCE THE STIGMA SURROUNDING SEEKING HELP FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

MONTHLY MEETING TO DISCUSS OUR GOALS AND SHARE INFORMATION,
FOLLOWED BY A 12 STEP MEETING FOR THOSE INTERESTED

3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
5:00 PM
DISTRICT 4 HALL
400 CHATSWORTH DRIVE
SAN FERNANDO, CA 91340



Local 11 Above & Beyond Award winner Jorge Hernandez (center), flanked by IBEW 9th District International Vice President Dave Reaves (left) and 9th District International Secretary-Treasurer Paul Noble.

Tireless Organizer Hernandez Recognized for Always Going Above and Beyond

By Jeremy Kehoe

Local 11 District 1 Organizer Jorge Hernandez admits the moment he heard his name called out across a roomful of union Brothers and Sisters in Alaska it, “felt kind of surreal.”

That’s the moment he learned from IBEW 9th District International Vice President Dave Reaves that he had earned IBEW International’s prestigious Above & Beyond Award for his relentless organizing work.

Hernandez says he’s “never been a 7:30 to 4:30” member since joining Local 11 13 years ago after a 14-year stint as a non-union electrician, and his goal has, “always been to do my part to leave the union better than when I joined it.”

Since 2012, Hernandez’s Local 11 career has been filled with volunteering, organizing, and supporting groups from the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus to Reach out and Engage Next-Gen Electrical Workers (RENEW), whose mission is to inspire the next generation of IBEW workers to become active members.

“Anything that needed people to be there, I was out there getting involved, because it’s all about paying it forward,” Hernandez said. “I still get calls

from people I helped organize back in 2017 who tell me, ‘Thank you for changing my life. Thank you for helping give me the opportunity to buy my kids braces and put my daughter through college.’ Those are the calls that make it all worthwhile.”

“Jorge has always been someone who’s done anything he could to support the union, and he’s done it because it’s the right thing to do as a union member,” said Local 11 President Alton Wilkerson. “Sometimes you see someone who doesn’t realize that they’re going above and beyond, but they are, so it’s gratifying to see someone like Jorge get recognized and rewarded for his actions.”

A Groundbreaking Salting First

Hernandez’s indefatigable combination of organizing persistence and union conviction was on front-and-center display this year when he took the lead in Local 11’s groundbreaking salting campaign with Sema Electric.

Hernandez started by simply doing what he’s always done: showing up. He talked with Sema employees as they left work, then connected with the on-site foreman, and then worked his way up to speaking with Sema Electric’s owner, Sean

Delahanty (which required some independent sleuthing to secure his contact information). Once he got in that door he explained the benefits of union labor and the quality of craftsmanship Local 11 could add to their already thriving company.

“The name of the game is just communicating with people and building that relationship,” Hernandez said. “(Delahanty) had a lot of questions, and every time he had a question I had an answer. And if I didn’t have an answer I went back to our team and got an answer and called him right back. And if he called on a Saturday night with a question, I answered the phone.”

As a result, for the first time in its history Local 11 signed up a signatory contractor as a direct result of salting efforts led by Hernandez and team members including Javier Vega, Donte Lang, Cristhian Garcia, Ricky Davis, G Love, Shawn Hinds, Ray Haro, Jorge Castillo, and Brian Powell.

The key to this successful salting campaign, Hernandez said, was honest, open, and responsive communications and leaning into the organizing experience and experience of Local 11 Contractor Organizer Ben Frank and Wilkerson.

“That level of service we were able to give Sema was one of the reasons they signed with us,” Hernandez said. “(Delahanty) said our ability to answer their questions, answer his calls no matter what time he called, and give them the guidance they needed was what made him feel comfortable signing a full signature program.”

Following in a Legend’s Footsteps

Not lost on Hernandez is the humbling and motivating reality that he is following in the footsteps of legendary Local 11 organizer Oscar Martinez, his mentor and fellow Above and Beyond recipient.

“It’s an honor to be included in the same category as someone like Oscar, who was a role model for me – someone I idolized,” Hernandez said. “If I end up being half as good as Oscar, I’ll be happy. To be included in the same sentence as him is an honor.”

Despite the new recognition and accolades, Hernandez says his go-to mode will continue to be rooted in advocating the value of union membership and advancing its bedrock principles of unity, solidarity, and equality to keep creating opportunities for everyone.

“The name of the game is just communicating with people and building that relationship”

– Jorge Hernandez

“I don’t feel like I’m going above and beyond,” he said. “I’m just doing what I need to do to educate people and give them information they need so they have an opportunity to have a better life and get what they’re worth – what they deserve. There are a lot of people out there who don’t know what unions are about and think what they’re getting is enough, and it’s not. I’m just about helping people out and giving them the right information.”

“Members like Jorge do what they do to give back to his union and keep this union progressing and moving forward because this union has changed a lot of our lives,” Wilkerson said. “It’s about putting back into this union what this union’s given to us, and that’s why Jorge does what he does.”

LOCAL 11'S UNIT 14 KEEPS L.A. MOVING (Continued from Pg. 1)

Partnership and Teamwork

Flores shares leadership with Yezdan Marquez, who stepped into his co-business agent role in January after 23 years with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. Marquez worked his way up from apprentice to journeyman, running traffic signal crews for more than a decade, including as a Shop Steward.

Marquez emphasizes that civil service work brings unique challenges compared to the private sector, such as MOUs that run hundreds of pages, but the safety of his crews has always been his primary focus.

"I'm a big safety guy, so safety is the most important for my guys," Marquez says. "I want to make sure that our members are content. I want them to be safe. I want them to get paid what they deserve. That's my goal. I try to resolve problems. I try to help everybody as much as I can."

Both Flores and Marquez express admiration for their predecessor, Arida, who represented hundreds of Unit 14 members for years before taking on his new role. "I still don't know how Luis did it for so many years," Marquez says. "He did a fantastic job."

Now, with nearly 1,000 civil service workers represented, Flores and Marquez are focused on strengthening membership. Marquez says that when he was a Shop Steward, about 70 percent of workers had signed up for the union. His target is 90 percent.

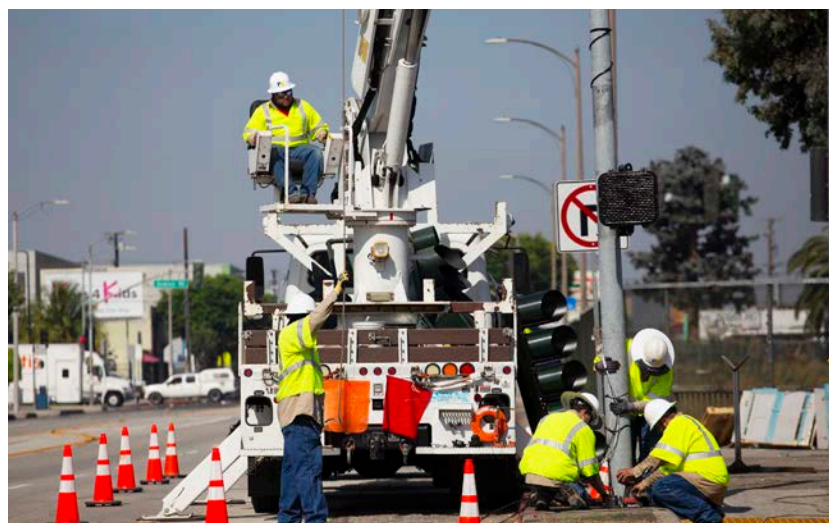
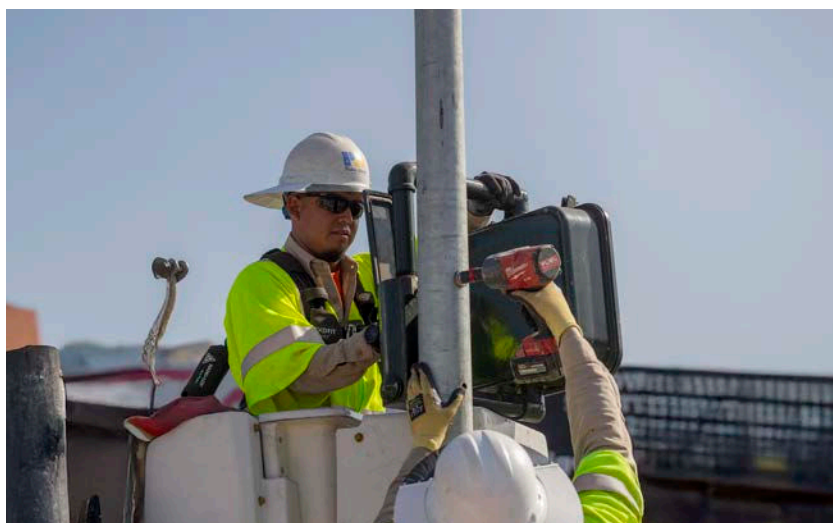
"My goal is to get the membership up, because the better the membership, the stronger the union, and the better contracts we get for our members," Marquez said.

Both Flores and Marquez agree their union membership has

been the resources that has helped power their careers.

"It's the best thing that happened to me," Marquez said, of joining the union. "I think it's the best thing that could happen to any employee. You get representation. There's a voice. It's a brotherhood. It's a blessing being part of a union. It's just something that helps out the community."

Flores says the union has shaped his life. "It's done a lot for me. It's given me education, and it's a big family helping each other out."



Members Speak Out

"I just love the brotherhood. I spend more time with them than anybody else. I'm here with them most of the time. It's a good unity."

— ANGEL SANCHEZ
Shop Steward



"I like the job security, knowing that if something goes wrong, the Union is there to support us. It's peace of mind."

— ANDRES SALDANA



"I like everything. The benefits, obviously, and IBEW 11 is there to help us whenever we need it."

— GILBERT RAMIREZ

