



Issue 3

February 2008

Business Managers Report

Brothers and Sisters,

The New Year is upon us and I am expecting great things for Local 684. I hope everyone had a joyous happy holiday season. We currently have 36 JWs on book one and 3 apprentices available for work. The winter months always bring the cold and rain; the rain is desperately needed but is delaying several start ups.

The Labor Management committee placed an article in the Modesto Bee on December 31st. The article was about the training center and the fact that 684 had won the Western States Electrical competition two years running. Our local signatory contractors were listed all but one; Hamilton and Dillon Electric was accidentally left out of the article and I didn't catch it in the proof. I apologize to Bobby, John and all of the HDE crew.

North American Power Systems from Portland Oregon, has taken over the contract to retrofit and reactivate two biomass generators (trash burners) located in El Nido and Chowchilla. These generators were built in the late 1980s and then decommissioned in the 1990s. Local 684 and 100 are working together to get these two plants back online. It looks like these will continue into the summer.

The political season is in full swing and November will be here before we know it. The International Office is currently not endorsing a particular candidate at this time; vote for who you think will help this country the most. Please register to vote and make sure to vote for your paycheck and lobby for your hobbies.

Fraternally,
Billy Powell

Local 684 now has a website on the World Wide Web; the web address is www.ibewlu684.org please log on and check it out.

www.ibewlu684.org



Same bat time, same bat channel, just new paint and signs.



Local 684 Office (209)524-5171
Local 684 Fax (209)521-9664
Training Center (209)579-5417

Business Manager Email: billy@ibewlu684.org
Linda Email: Linda@ibewlu684.org
Newsletter Articles: ethesportsnut@hotmail.com



Kirkes Mann Electric

Mann Electric, Inc. dba KME, is an electrical contracting firm headquartered in Turlock, California. Mann Electric was founded in 1945 by Benjamin Mann, incorporated in 1973 and began doing business as Kirkes & Mann Electric in 1998. As an IBEW union contractor, KME has maintained a long-term reputation for unmatched quality and excellence in design, construction and project management.

The firm has been managed since 1998 by Danny E. Mann and Michael D. Kirkes who are responsible for estimating, coordination of project managers, customer service, purchasing and manpower.

Our projects include educational facilities, office buildings and industrial applications of every size. We employ experienced electricians and office support personnel.

We believe the KME team can ensure quality electrical installations that will be delivered on time and within budget. KME brings a wealth of industry experience with difficult projects completed under compressed time frames, a broad understanding of the construction market, and highly skilled people in all positions.

Our commitment to quality work and service at every level and at every project size has built a reputation for reliability, superior performance and value with a strong client base.

Danny Mann



684 hats = \$10
Short sleeve shirts = \$10
Long sleeve shirts = \$15
Long sleeve Henleys = \$20

Training Director News

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year! With our New Year starting, our continued education classes will begin, as promised. As required for our state Certification, we must have completed 32 hours of continuing education classes on your anniversary test month in 2009. Here is a general list of some classes we will be offering:

February 27, 2008: 2005 Code Changes

Instructor: Bob Roy with Cooper Bussmann.

Bob did a great job on the class he gave last year. Pizza will be served.

March 4-6, 10, 12-13: Electrical Project Supervision Level-I (EPS Level 1)

Instructor: John Riley, NECA

Classes will be held from 4:30 – 8:30 each evening. You will need to attend all 6 classes in order to receive your EPS Level 1 Certificate. No make-up classes will be available. Food will be served. Class size is limited to 25, so sign-ups will be based on a first-come, first-served basis.

March 25-27: OSHA-10

Instructors: Mark Bowden, Bill Powell

Class hours will be from 4:30-8:00 each evening. If you have already attended an OSHA-10 class, you are not eligible for this one, as your certification has no expiration date.

April: First Aid/ CPR, dates to be announced

Instructor: Cindy Brady, Collins Electrical Co.

Take a look at your current First Aid/ CPR cards to see if they need to be renewed this year. Will be a Saturday class.

May 19-21, 27-29: Electrical Project Supervision Level-II (EPS Level 2)

Instructor: John Riley, NECA

Classes will be from 4:30 – 8:30 each evening. Again, all 6 classes must be attended to receive the Level 2 certificate. Food will be served. Class size is limited to 25, so sign-ups will be based on a first-come, first-served basis and you must have completed the EPS-I Level as a pre requisite.

Upcoming classes yet to be scheduled: OSHA-30 and EPS Level-III

In previous years, there has been a problem with members signing up and not attending the continuing education classes. As with most things in life, it costs our membership to sponsor these classes and we cannot afford to continue without commitment. Beginning this year, a \$50 deposit will be required to sign up for any class. This will be refunded to the member upon successful completion of the course. Don't wait until the last minute to meet your continuing education requirements!

Fraternally,
Mark Bowden
Training Coordinator

Health and Welfare UPDATE

As you all know the cost of healthcare or total lack thereof is a major problem in the United States. To help manage these costs there have been some changes made to our Health and Welfare benefits. You should have received an informational packet from Benefit Administration Corp (BAC) describing the changes. However, since the packet contained substantial information this letter will clarify and emphasize the changes.

There are three changes that the Plan implemented:

- A) Too many members are using the emergency room for non emergency care so **Urgent Care Facility** visits have been **increased to 90%** paid after deductible is satisfied. The emergency room copay is \$100 unless you are admitted to the hospital. Please use the Urgent Care Facilities. That will save you and the Plan money.
- B) Our dental is now through **Delta Dental**. Over 90% of dentists in California belong to Delta Dental PPO. Delta has pricing agreements with dentists saving the Plan money. The Plan has made this move to help contain costs. You can choose between

- 1) **Deltacare USA** a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) with no deductible **(800)422-4234** or
- 2) **Delta Dental** Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) which has a \$50 per person \$100 per family deductible **(800)765-6003**.

Delta Dental has negotiated contracts with dentists all over the country. In your packet was an enrollment form for your dependents. For dental coverage you will need to fill it out and return it. Please call BAC and request one if you need another enrollment packet.

C) Prescriptions with Sav-Rx

Local 684's pharmaceutical costs have been increasing to over **\$550,000** annually.

This cost increase is due in part to state of the art biotech medicines and aggressive advertising of brand name medicines by pharmaceutical companies. Local 684 has gone from a single tier to a three tier system which emphasizes generic and formulary drugs.

Formulary is a list of medicines that are approved for prescription and it includes key information on composition, description, dispensing, and administration of medicines. Instead of 80% paid of allowable charges for all drugs there are three categories:

Formulary Generic Drugs

Paid at **90%** of allowable charges
 With a minimum copay of \$5 (\$10 Mail order)
 Maximum copay of \$200 (\$400 Mail order)

Formulary Brand Name Drugs

Paid at **80%** of allowable charges
 With a minimum copay of \$15 (\$30 Mail order)
 Maximum copay of \$200 (\$400 Mail order)

Non –Formulary Drugs

Paid at **70%** of allowable charges
 With a minimum copay of \$30 (\$60 Mail order)
 Maximum copay of \$200 (\$400 Mail order)

You will see an increase of cost at the drug store due to the new copays, or if you are taking several name brand or non-formulary drugs. Please check with your physician to see if a generic is available, Sav-Rx will also assist you on their website or customer service phone line.

Maintenance drugs are required to be mail order; if a 3rd refill is attempted you will be charged an extra 10% of the allowable charge. Mail order will save you and the Plan.

The Trustees and your IBEW Local 684 representatives appreciate your cooperation helping to contain the ever increasing medical expenses incurred by your Health and Welfare Plan.

www.sav-rx.com

1(866)233-4239 customer service

1(888)810-1394 fax

(prescriptions must be faxed from doctors office)

Urgent Care Facilities

Ceres Urgent Care 1930 E Hatch Road Modesto, CA 95351 209 537-5000	Expresscare 1441 Florida Avenue Modesto, CA 95350 209 576-3609
Prompt Care of Memorial Medical Center 1700 Coffee Road Modesto, CA 95355 209 572-7251	Urgent Care 911 E Tuolumne Road Turlock, CA 95382 209 668-4104
Fountain View Urgent Care 374 W Olive Ave., Ste A Merced, CA 95348 209 384-5766	Castle Urgent Care 3605 Hospital Road Merced, CA 95340 209 381-2027
Mercy Urgent Care & Occupational Medicine Ctr 374 W Olive Avenue Merced, CA 95348 209 384-5766	Atwater Urgent Care 1775 Third Street Atwater, CA 95301 209 358-5611
Prompt Care Indian Rock 14540 Mono Way Sonora, CA 95370 209 532-3167	Satellite Healthcare Inc. 136 Columbia Way Sonora, CA 95370 209 532-3072



HOT KITS ARE HERE!!! We have Category 2 and Category 4 Arc Flash Suits available at the Training Center for check out to our Foreman and Journeyman through their contractors. They are here for your safety and use. Please have your contractor or foreman check these out when needed. On a further note, it is requested that when on loan, these suits are not to be washed. They must be professionally cleaned to maintain their proper care.



Rod Fulkerson, Brandon Strohmeyer, Jonathan Pound



Brandon Strohmeyer

A few local contractors already have Arc Flash Kits required by NFPA 70E Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace which are required by several customers' facilities. The contractor is responsible for furnishing all Personal Protective Equipment; however it is our responsibility to use it. We say that we won't be involved in an electrical accident that it is our job to work on energized equipment, but statistics show that electrical shock, arc flash, and arc blasts happen every day.

Shutdowns and startups are scheduled events. The contractor should have the appropriate level arc flash kit available. Foremen should request the kits for the employees. If kits are not available through the contractor please check one out from the training center. These kits are cheap compared to what is at stake. OSHA will issue penalties in the event of an occupational accident and the 70E procedures were not followed.

Please work safe and be careful!

Billy



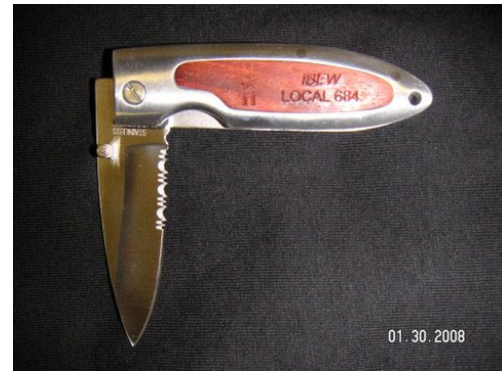
Business and Membership Development

We are in an area where there are more non-represented workers than represented ones in our trade. It is our main goal to change this. Every one of us needs to tell the non-union electrician about the benefits to being an IBEW member when they get the opportunity.

At this time there have been a growing number of electricians inquiring about the IBEW. They have state certificates and now want better wages and benefits. We are testing some of them to see if they qualify as journeyman or any other classifications we have.

I have met with a couple of non-signatory contractors and several non union electricians who are interested in the IBEW, we are in continuous contact.

Fraternally,
Richard Venema



We have received a small quantity of IBEW 684 pocket knives available for \$15

IBEW 684 Retirees

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We had ten retirees for breakfast in January. In 2008 the breakfasts will be on the last Wednesday of the month at the Old Mill Café at 9:00 a.m. It is noted on the calendar the local union sent you.

There was 15 Retirees that attended the Celebration of Life for Max Benthall.

The Retirees want to thank the Pension Trustees for the 13th check this year.

After reading the article in the Modesto Bee it looks as if the Local is moving forward and in very capable hands.

Hope to see you at the next breakfast.

John Kincanon

We want our newsletter to represent YOU-
our members. If you have any
information you would like to add, please
email your article to:

ethesportsnut@hotmail.com

or

linda@ibewlu684.org

March Deadline:
Friday, Mar. 21st

Just a Reminder

Effective January 1, 2008

\$1.00 increase in Monthly Dues = \$35.00

AFTER DISPATCH REPORT

You will now be able to call the job line after dispatch to find
out where the calls went to on the books.

Health & Welfare Questions

Please call: 800-282-5246 ext: 140 (Monique)

IBEW Local 684
519 12th Street
Modesto, CA 95354

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Important Dates To Remember

Union Meeting - Feb 12 – 7:00 P.M.

Retiree Breakfast - February 27, 2008 – 9:00 A.M.

Picnic – May 31ST

Apprentice Completion Dinner – July 25TH

...the right choice
ibew
IBEW Local 684

